

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MEXICO 19178 191549Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 OPR-01 CIAE-00
DINT-05 DODE-00 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 L-03 PA-02
PER-03 SMIN-01 INRE-00 OCS-06 CA-02 FBOE-00 ANAE-00
OES-09 A-02 USIE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 SLPD-01 /049 W
-----363165 191555Z /40

O 191421Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3641

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19178

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS:
SUBJ: EARTHQUAKE IN MEXICO CITY

1. MEXICO CITY HAD, ABOUT 7:15 A.M. MEXICO CITY TIME, FAIRLY STRONG EARTHQUAKE. VISUAL INSPECTION OF EMBASSY INDICATES NO MAJOR DAMAGE; SOME PLASTER HAS FALLEN. SOME NEARBY BUILDINGS SUFFERED CRACKS AND BROKEN WINDOWS.

2. NO REPORTS AS OF 8:00 A.M. MEXICO CITY TIME OF INJURIES TO OFFICIAL U.S. CITIZENS. EMBASSY ALMOST EMPTY AT TIME OF QUAKE. BUSBY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19180 191840Z
ACTION OCS-06

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 OPR-01 CIAE-00
DINT-05 DODE-00 ARA-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 L-03 PA-02
PER-03 CCO-00 SMIN-01 INRE-00 FDRE-00 CA-02 FBOE-00
ANAE-00 OES-09 A-02 USIE-00 SP-02 OC-02 PLE-00
PRS-01 SLPD-01 /051 W

-----372662 191858Z /45/41

O 191745Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3643

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19180

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR; ALSO PASS USIA
FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, MX, EAID
SUBJECT: SITREP 1 - MORE ON MEXICO CITY EATHQUAKE
-
REF: MEXICO 19178
-

1. EMBASSY SCIENCE SECTION QUOTES THE UNAM (NATIONAL UNIVERSITY) SEISMOLOGIC CENTER AS RATING THE QUAKE, WHICH OCCURRED AT 7:19 A.M., AT 6.7 - 6.9 ON THE RICHTER SCALE, PLACING THE EPICENTER AT 16.5 DEGREES NORTH LATITUDE, 103 DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN. THEY RATE THE QUAKE AT 8 ON THE MERCALI SCALE IN MEXICO CITY. TELEVISION NEWS QUOTES THE SAME SOURCE AS RATING THE QUAKE AT 6.7 RICHTER IN MEXICO CITY AND 8 RICHTER IN ACAPULCO. THEY STATE THE EPICENTER WAS 350 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF ACAPULCO, IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN. SCIENCE SECTION HAS BEEN INFORMED STRIKING A PORTION OF THE PACIFIC COAST.
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19180 191840Z

2. AFTER THOROUGH CHECK WITH ALL SECTIONS AND AGENCY HEADS, WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF ANY INJURY TO US PERSONNEL OR DEPENDENTS.
-

3. DAMAGE TO MEXICO CITY APPEARS TO RANGE FROM MODERATE TO EXTENSIVE IN THE CENTRAL PART OF THE CITY, INCLUDING SOME HOTELS. A NUMBER OF BUILDINGS IN THE CENTRAL PART OF THE CITY, INCLUDING SOME HOTELS. A NUMBER OF BUILDINGS IN THE CENTRAL PART OF THE CITY ARE REPORTED TO HAVE COLLAPSED. (TOP TWO FLOORS OF THE CONTINENTAL HOTEL,

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

FREQUED BY TOURISTS, ARE REPORTED TO HAVE COLLAPSED.) RADIO AND TV ARE REPEATEDLY ANNOUNCING HOSPITALS OPEN TO RECEIVE PATIENTS, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT ONE MAJOR HOSPITAL, THE CENTRO MEDICO NACIONAL WAS EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED AND PATIENTS HAVE BEEN EVACUATED TO OTHER HOSPITALS. TV ALSO REPORTS SOME BROKEN WATER AND GAS MAINS, AS WELL AS AN OCCASIONAL FIRE, PROMPTLY PUT OUT BY FIREMEN.

4. REPORTS OF DEATHS SO FAR ON THE RADIO HAVE BEEN OF SIX DEATHS IN MEXICO CITY IN TWO DIFFERENT BUILDINGS, BUT MEXICAN NEWS SERVICES ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SOME PEOPLE STILL HAVE NOT BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR AND THAT MUNICIPAL AND FEDERAL MEXICAN GOVERNMENT SERVICES ARE STILL ASSESSING DAMAGES. MANY PEOPLE APPARENTLY TRAPPED IN APARTMENT BUILDING ELEVATORS.

5. THE AIRPORT IS REPORTED CLOSED, NOT BECAUSE OF DAMAGE SUFFERED, BUT BECAUSE MEXICAN PERSONNEL ARE INSPECTING RUNWAYS. METRO IS ALSO CLOSED FOR SAME REASON, ALTHOUGH REPORTS INDICATE NO DAMAGE.

6. GOVERNMENT IS URGING PEOPLE TO REMAIN IN THEIR HOMES
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PAGE 03 MEXICO 19180 191840Z

AND ESPECIALLY NOT TO GO OR CONGEST THE DOWNTOWN AREA.

7. WORD FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE AREA AFFECTED, WHICH REPORTEDLY RUNS FROM MEXICO CITY TO OAXACA TO GUADALAJARA AND TO THE PACIFIC COAST IS SPOTTY. WHILE RADIO AND TV REPORT THA CUERNAVACA IS ALRIGHT AND SUFFERED MINOR DAMAGE, THEY HAVE ALSO INDICATED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH ACAPULCO, WHERE APPARENTLY THE EARTHQUAKE WAS STRONGEST.

8. WE HAVE MADE CONTACT AT 11:00 A.M. WITH CONGEN GUADALAJARA. CONSULATE AND ITS PERSONNEL ARE NOT DAMAGED OR INJURED. CONSULATE IS OPEN.

9. WE HAVE RECEIVED NO REPORTS OF DEATHS OR INJURIES TO ANY AMERICAN CITIZENS. CONSULAR TEAMS ARE OUT CHECKING HOTELS THROUGHOUT CITY TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE ARE ANY INJURIES OR PROBLEMS. BUSBY

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19181 191840Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 ARA-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 PASS-00
/001 W

-----372726 191845Z /46
O 191808Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3644

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19181

DIRECT RELAY

EMBASSY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
WASHINGTON D.C.
TELEX: WESTERN UNION 248321 AAWN UR

E.O. 12356: NA
TAGS: ACOA
SUBJECT: RELAY MESSAGE ON EARTHQUAKE FOR EMBASSY FEDERAL REPUBLIC
OF GERMANY IN MEXICO

FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED MEXICO CITY FROM EMBASSY OF FRG MEXICO
FOR FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON D.C.

QUOTE

AUS: MEKSIKO
NR 491 VOM 19.09.1985, 0915 OZ
AN: BONN AA
C I T I S S I M E N A C H T S

FERNSCHREIBEN (OFFEN) AN 331
EINGEGANGEN:

AZ.: VW 320.25
BETR.: ERDBEBEN IN MEKSIKO-STADT, 19.09.85, 07.19 UHR OZ
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19181 191840Z

EIN STARKES ERDBEBEN - 6.8 GRAD AUF DER RICHTERSKALA,
MIT EPIZENTRUM 350 KM SUEDOESTLICH VON ACAPULCO - HAT HEUTE
FRUEH VOR ALLEM MEKSIKANISCHE HAUPTSTADT GETROFFEN, ABER
AUCH BUNDESSTAATEN GUERRERO UND MICHOACAN. NACH BISHER VOR-
LIEGENDEN RADIOMELDUNGEN ZAHLREICHE GEBAEUDE IM STADTZENTRUM
ZUSAMMENGESTUERZT, JEDOCH NOCH KEINE UEBERSICHT UEBER GE-
NAUES AUSMASS DER SCHAEEDEN.

PERSONAL UND FAMILIEN GOETHE-INSTITUT, INDUSTRIE- UND
HANDELSKAMMER, DEUTSCHE BANKENREPRESENTANZEN, DEUTSCHE
SCHULE UND BFAI WOHLAUF. KANZLEI UNVERSEHRT - BIS AUF FUGEN-

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

RISS UND GESPRUNGENE SCHEIBEN.

TELEFON-BEREITSCHAFTSDIENST BOTSCHAFT AB 17.30 UHR OZ:
589 41 61, AR WEYAND.

TELEKS-VERBINDUNG STARK GESTOERT.
I.A. KOEHLER

1. ZUSATZ:

BOTSCHAFT BLEIBT AUF FREQUENZ O 14 (STAND: 1.2.85), BETRIEBS-
ART A 3, EMPFANGSBEREIT.

2. ZUSATZ:

BITTE LUFCITISSIME INFORMIEREN, DASS LT. MITTEILUNG
LUFTHANSA-MEKSIKO FLUGHAFEN MEKSIKO-STADT FUNKTIONSFAEHIG IST,
ALLERDINGS KEINE AUFTANKMOEGlichkeit BESTEHT. MASCHINE HEUTE
MUESSTE IN DALLAS VOLLTANKEN. BITTE BESTAETIGUNG, SIEHE ZUSATZ 1.
UNQUOTE BUSBY

NOTE: PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE BY OC/T

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19182 191942Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 EB-08
DINT-05 DODE-00 MMO-01 IO-16 NSAE-00 SSO-00 SY-06
HA-08 INSE-00 PA-02 PER-03 CCO-00 HHS-06 INRE-00
OCS-06 FDRE-00 SAF-01 CA-02 ANAE-00 FBO-06 AGR-01
OES-09 A-02 SYE-00 USIE-00 OC-02 SR-06 PLE-00
PRS-01 SLPD-01 (AS-01 USIE-00)/102 W
-----003150 192227Z /72

O 191838Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3645

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19182

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR
DEPT ALSO PASS USIA
FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, MX, FEO, AMGT
SUBJECT: SITREP 3 - MORE ON MEXICO CITY EARTHQUAKE

-
EMBASSY OFFICE BUILDING STRUCTURE REPORT

1. INITIAL CURSORY REVIEW OF EMBASSY OFFICE BUILDING DID NOT REVEAL ANY STRUCTURAL DAMAGE. NOTICEABLE DAMAGE IS LIMITED TO MINOR PLASTER CRACKING OF INTERNAL OFFICE WALLS AND CEILINGS. THERE IS NOT APPARENT DAMAGE TO EMBASSY INTERNAL GAS, WATER OR ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS, ALTHOUGH WATER SUPPLY IS BEING TESTED FOR POTABILITY OWING TO SEDIMENT DEPOSITS. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO OPERATE ON CITY POWER, AND IT HAS NOT BEEN NECESSARY TO USE EMERGENCY GENERATORS. A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE BUILDING SYSTEM IS IN PROGRESS AND A DETAILED STATUS REPORT WILL FOLLOW ACCORDINGLY.

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19182 191942Z

AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE STRUCTURE REPORT

2. NO SERIOUS DAMAGE NOTED. ELECTRICAL, GAS AND WATER SYSTEMS ARE FUNCTIONING PROPERLY.

-
EMBASSY WAREHOUSE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

-
3. WAREHOUSE LOCATED IN AREA AWAY FROM THE CHANCERY

SUFFERED SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE. FURNISHINGS, EQUIPMENT AND WAREHOUSE SHELVING HAVE BEEN DAMAGED.

-

UDA/APHIA/PPQ BUILDING DAMAGE

-

4. COMPLETE STRUCTURAL DAMAGE AT APHIS/PPQ/LAR/REGIONAL OFFICE AT HAMBURGO 63. OFFICE IS UNINHABITABLE AND ACCESS IS DENIED. REGIONAL OFFICE IS RENTED BY GOM'S SAHR. BUILDING BEYOND REPAIR, AS STAIRS AND WALLS ARE SERIOUSLY CRACKED AND WINDOWS ARE GONE. HAVE EQUIPMENT IN THE OFFICE WHICH IS IN NEED OF SECURITY. PPQ/LAR/AREA OFFICE IN COYOACAN HAS NOT BEEN DAMAGED. HAVE HEARD FROM MOST EMPLOYEES AND THERE ARE NO REPORTED INJURIES SO FAR.

-

5. RSC MANAGER REPORTS EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO REGIONAL PRINTING FACILITY WHICH MAY PUT IT OUT OF OPERATION FOR AS LONG AS SIX MONTHS. USIS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN LIBRARY STAFF HAS BEEN EVACUATED BECAUSE OF A GAS LEAK IN THE AREA WHICH HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY AFFECTED. BUILDING ADJACENT TO LIBRARY IS REPORTED TO HAVE COLLAPSED, AND PARTS OF THE STRUCTURE ARE JUTTING INTO THE RSC PORTION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OWNED LIBRARY BUILDING. BUSBY
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PAGE 03 MEXICO 19182 191942Z

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19183 192354Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
EB-08 DINT-05 DODE-00 MMO-01 IO-16 NSAE-00 SSO-00
SY-06 HA-08 INSE-00 PA-02 PER-03 CCO-00 HHS-06
INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-01 SAF-01 CA-02 FBOE-00 ANAE-00
AGR-01 OES-09 A-02 SYE-00 USIE-00 OC-02 SR-06
PLE-00 PRS-01 SLPD-01 /098 W

-----006101 192357Z /63

O 191841Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3646

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19183

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

DEPT PASS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, MX, USDA

SUBJECT: SITREP 4: US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DAMAGE
REPORT

1. DAMAGE TO USDA/PPQ BUILDING REPORTED EARLIER. NO
DAMAGE TO USDA/FAS EQUIPMENT AND NO REPORTED INJURIES.
ONE FSN MERCEDES MORAZAN HAS NOT REPORTED (SHE HAS NO
TELEPHONE).

2. SITUATION FOR OTHER USDA AGENCIES AS OF 10:30 A.M.
IS AS FOLLOWS:

3. PPQ: REGIONAL OFFICE DESTROYED. AREA OFFICE IS
ALRIGHT. ALL EMPLOYEES HAVE REPORTED IN AND THERE
ARE NO INJURIES.

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19183 192354Z

4. VS/FMD (AFTOSA): KATHY BACA REPORTS NO DAMAGE AND
NO INJURIES.

5. VS/SCREWWORM: DIRECTOR DR. NOVY REPORTS DAMAGE
TO BUILDING, BUT EXTENT UNKNOWN. NO REPORTED INJURIES.
BUSBY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19184 191945Z
ACTION ARA-00INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
EB-08 DINT-05 DODE-00 MMO-01 IO-16 NSAE-00 SSO-00
SY-06 HA-08 INSE-00 PA-02 PER-03 CCO-00 HHS-06
INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-00 SAF-01 CA-02 ANAE-00 FBO-06
AGR-01 OES-09 A-02 SYE-00 USIE-00 OC-02 SR-06
PLE-00 PRS-01 SLPD-01 /103 W
-----376062 192002Z /70O 191847Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3647

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19184

FOR CA/OCS/CC/ARA/EMR
DEPT ALSO PASS USIA
FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, MX, FEO, AMGT

SUBJECT: SITREP 2 - MORE ON MEXICO CITY EARTHQUAKE

1. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION BROADCASTED BY SEVERAL MEXICO CITY RADIO STATIONS, SEVERAL BUILDINGS IN THE CITY HAVE COLLAPSED. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FEDERAL ELECTRICITY COMMISSION SAID THAT APPROXIMATELY HALF OF THE CITY LACKS POWER. LOCAL TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION IS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE LINES ARE NOT WORKING BECAUSE A BUILDING OF THE TELEPHONE COMPANY IN DOWNTOWN MEXICO CITY IS DAMAGED.

2. THERE ARE NO DEFINITE REPORTS ON THE NUMBER OF INJURED, MISSING OR DEAD. LOCAL RADIO STATIONS HAVE NOTED AT LEAST TWELVE PERSONS DEAD. REPORTS COMING FROM THE LOCAL AP AND UPI OFFICES HERE GIVE AN EARLY ESTIMATE OF 60 TO 70 PERSONS DEAD. LATEST INFORMATION INDICATE THAT

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19184 191945Z

SEVERAL HOSPITALS, INCLUDING A COUPLE OF THE MEXICAN RED CROSS, ARE CROWDED WITH INJURED PERSONS, BUT THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC NUMBERS.

3. THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF LOOTING. MEXICO CITY POLICE HAVE CLOSED THE DOWNTOWN AREA SINCE SEVERAL BUILDINGS ARE REPORTED TO BE DANGEROUS. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO TWO IN DOWNTOWN MEXICO CITY -- USUALLY USED BY FOREIGN TOURISTS, BUT THERE IS NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF INJURED, MISSING

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

OR DEAD AT THIS MOMENT. THE RADIO NEWSCASTS ARE URGING MEXICO CITY RESIDENTS TO STAY HOME. THERE ARE SEVERE TRAFFIC JAMS IN THE MOST IMPORTANT AVENUES LEADING TO DOWNTOWN MEXICO CITY. THERE ARE REPORTS OF GAS LEAKS AND EVEN OF SOME EXPLOSIONS IN SEVERAL BUILDINGS.

-

4. FIRE, POLICE AND MEDICAL SERVICES ARE REPORTED TO BE WORKING TO THEIR CAPACITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE SITUATION. THE LATEST -- STILL UNOFFICIALLY CONFIRMED -- THE MEXICAN ARMY IS ALSO COOPERATING IN THE SITUATION. THIS INDICATES THAT THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY PLAN "DM-3" HAS BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT, ACCORDING TO THE MEXICO CITY RADIO REPORTS. (DRAFTED:VHOVANEC) BUSBY

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19185 191939Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 OCS-06 CA-02 OES-09 /028 W
-----375666 191947Z /70

O 191857Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3648

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19185

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, MX
SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE: REQUEST FROM ITALIAN
EMBASSY, MEXICO CITY

1. DR. EMANUELE PIGNATELLI, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE
ITALIAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY, PHONED TO REQUEST WE
PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON, D.C.

2. BEGIN TEXT. PLEASE TRANSMIT FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN ROME. EARTHQUAKE HAS CAUSED VERY
SERIOUS MATERIAL DAMAGE, BUT UP TO NOW, NO DEATHS OR
INJURIES TO ITALIAN RESIDENTS. WE HAVE PROBLEM WITH
SOME TOURISTS IN CENTRAL HOTELS. ITALIAN EMBASSY IS
PROVIDING ASSISTANCE. SIGNED: ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN
MEXICO CITY. END TEXT. BUSBY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT/NOT PASSED TO THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19188 192355Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 SS-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 PASS-00
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O 191906Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3649

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19188

DEPT FOR ARA/MX

DIRECT RELAY

E.O. 12356 NA
TAGS: MX
SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE MEXICO

DR. GUILLERMO SOBERON
SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF HEALTH
REGENCY HOTEL
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

WE WILL APPRECIATE YOUR COMMUNICATING URGENTLY WITH
"OFICIALIA MAYOR" DUE TO SERIOUS SITUATION IN MEXICO
CITY AS A RESULT OF EARTHQUAKE. WE SUGGEST IMMEDIATE
RETURN TO MEXICO CITY.

LIC. RICARDO FERRARI GLEASON
DIRECTOR GENERAL

BUSBY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

NOTE: PASSED TO ABOVE ADDRESSEE BY OC/T.

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19189 192357Z
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INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 EUR-00 OPR-01 SSO-00
CCO-00 PASS-00 CA-02 OC-02 /006 W

-----006135 200002Z /66

O 191921Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3650

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19189

DEPT FOR ARA/MX

DIRECT RELAY

E.O. 12356 N/A
TAGS: MX
SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE MEXICO
EMBASSY OF SPAIN
WASHINGTON, D.C.
2700 15TH ST., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.
PHONE (201) 265-0190
265-0191

PLEASE TRANSMIT MINISTRY DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES

IMPORTANT EARTHQUAKE AT 7:19 A.M. TODAY. SEVERE DAMAGES
IN DOWNTOWN MEXICO AND OTHER AREAS. CITY IS INCOMMUNICATED
BY TELEX AND PHONE. NO NEWS UP TO NOW OF VICTIMS BETWEEN
SPANISH CITIZENS. WE HAVE TRANSMITTED LOCAL RADIO STATION
MESSAGE ASKING SPANIARDS IN MEXICO TO CONTACT EMBASSY.

MIGUEL ARIAS
CHARGE AFFAIRS
EMBASSY OF SPAIN
MEXICO CITY, MEXICO
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19189 192357Z

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED ADDRESSEE.

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19197 192308Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 EB-08
DINT-05 DODE-00 IO-16 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 COME-00 SSO-00
HA-08 PA-02 CCO-00 HHS-06 INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-01
CA-02 USIE-00 OC-02 SR-06 PRS-01 SLPD-01 /075 W
-----004640 192312Z /66

O 192026Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3652

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19197

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR
DEPT ALSO PASS USIA
FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, MX, AMGT, USIA
SUBJECT: SITREP 5 - EARTHQUAKE MAGNITUDE AT EPICENTER
- WAS 7.7 ON RICHTER SCALE.
-
-

1. THE SEISMIC CENTER AT THE NATIONAL AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO HAS UPDATED ITS ESTIMATE OF THE MAGNITUDE AND LOCATION OF THE EATHQUAKE BASED ON INFORMATION FROM FURTHER RECORDING STATIONS. UNAM NOW ESTIMATES THAT THE EARTHQUAKE OCCURRED AT 0717 LOCAL TIME WITH THE WITH THE EPICENTER AT 17.9N, 102.5W ABOUT 50 KM FROM THE COAST OF ACAPULCO-GUERRERO. THE MAGNITUDE THERE ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT 7.7 ON THE RICHTER SCALE WITH THE MEXICO CITY EATHQUAKE RATED AT 8 DEGREES MERCALLI SCALE. PROF. LOMNITZ OF UNAM ESTIMATES THAT THE COASTAL AREA FROM ZIHUATANEJO TO LAZARO CADENAS IS HEAVILY DAMAGED, BUT THEY HAVE NO CONTACT WITH THE COAST. THE FOLLOWING STATES HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN AFFECTED: JALISCO, OAXACA, MEXICO, MICHOACAN, GUERRERO, PUEBLA,
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19197 192308Z

GUANAJUATO, QUERETERO, AND VERACRUZ. THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF A TSUNAMI ON THE PACIFIC COAST. WE ARE SEEKING TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH ACAPULCO. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT AT 1100 LOCAL TIDE HAD RISEN TWO FEET IN ACAPULCO.

-
2. SOURCES AT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH REPORT THAT THE NATIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, THE TRAUMATOLOGY, CARDIOLOGY, GENERITAL AND THE RESIDENCE FOR DOCTORS HAVE SUFFERED DAMAGE. THE NATIONAL MEDICAL CENTER'S MEETING

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

ROOM IS BEING USED TO ACCOMMODATE INJURED PEOPLE.

3. TECHNICAL DETAILS REGARDING THE MAGNITUDE AND LOCATION OF THE EARTHQUAKE CONTAINED IN THIS CABLE SUPERCEDE SOMEWHAT CONFLICTING DETAILS ON THIS SUBJECT CONTAINED IN PRIOR CABLES. (DRAFTED:LMORALES) BUSBY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 19201 192342Z
ACTION ARA-00INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
EB-08 DINT-05 DODE-00 MMO-01 IO-16 NSAE-00 SSO-00
SY-06 HA-08 INSE-00 PA-01 PER-01 CCO-00 HHS-04
INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-01 SAF-01 CA-02 FBOE-00 ANAE-00
AGR-01 OES-09 A-02 SYE-00 USIE-00 OC-02 SR-06
PLE-00 PRS-01 SLPD-01 /093 W
-----005751 192345Z /63O 192101Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3654

RELEASED IN FULL

CONFIDENTIAL MEXICO 19201

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR
FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCEE.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, MX, AMGT, USIA, FBO
SUBJECT: SITREP 9 EARTHQUAKE: MESSAGE OF CONCERN AND
SUPPORT GIVEN TO FOREIGN MINISTER SEPULVEDA

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. EMBOFF WENT TO MEXICAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(SRE) AT 1300 HRS., SEPTEMBER 19, TO CONVEY MESSAGE OF
CONCERN AND SUPPORT TO GOM. BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE
STRUCTURAL DAMAGE, SRE BUILDING IS CLOSED AND WITHOUT
ELECTRICITY. A SKELETON STAFF OF TOP SRE OFFICIALS IS
OPERATING OUT OF THE ADJACENT FOREIGN MINISTRY ARCHIVES
BUILDING. FOREIGN MINISTER SEPULVEDA WAS ABOUT TO
PERSONALLY SURVEY THE DAMAGE TO SRE AND POLOFF ORALLY
CONVEYED OUR MESSAGE DIRECTLY TO HIM. EMBOFF STATED
THAT, IF THE GOM THINKS WE CAN BE OF ANY HELP IN THESE
GRAVE CIRCUMSTANCES, THEY NEED ONLY ASK. SEPULVEDA
RESPONDED THAT POLOFF WAS TO CONVEY HIS SINCERE THANKS
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19201 192342Z

TO AMBASSADOR GAVIN AND WAS GENUINELY APPRECIATIVE.
"WE ARE CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF DETERMINING THE
EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE IN THE AFFECTED AREAS AND ARE
ASSESSING THE SITUATION, AND WE WILL BE IN TOUCH,"
SEPULVEDA SAID. (DRAFTED: POL:MDAVISON) BUSBY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19204 192338Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 EB-08 DINT-05
DODE-00 MMO-01 IO-16 NSAE-00 SSO-00 SY-06 HA-08
INSE-00 PA-02 PER-03 CCO-00 DOTE-00 HHS-06 INRE-00
OCS-06 FDRE-00 SAF-01 CA-02 FAA-00 ANAE-00 FBO-06
AGR-01 OES-09 A-02 SYE-00 USIE-00 OC-02 SR-06
PLE-00 PRS-01 SLPD-01 (AS-01 SS-10)/112 W
-----011604 200209Z /70

O 192119Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3656

UNCLAS MEXICO 19204

RELEASED IN FULL

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, MX, AMGT, USIA, FBO
SUBJECT: SITREP 6 - EFFECTS OF MEXICO CITY EARTHQUAKE

1. INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - LATEST REPORTS ARE THAT INCOMING FLIGHTS CAN LAND WITH NO DIFFICULTY AT MEXICO CITY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. HOWEVER, EVEN THOUGH THE AIRPORT IS OPEN FOR ARRIVALS, IT IS REPORTEDLY CLOSED FOR DEPARTURES DUE TO A FUEL PROBLEM APPARENTLY CAUSED BY THE EARTHQUAKE WHICH PREVENTS OUTGOING FLIGHTS FROM LOADING UP WITH FUEL. THIS SITUATION WILL REMAIN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED, HOWEVER, THAT TWO FLIGHTS DID MANAGE TO TAKE OFF FROM MEXICO CITY AIRPORT THIS MORNING, I.E., A PAN AM FLIGHT TO MIAMI AND A JAPAN AIRLINES FLIGHT.

2. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM OUR CONSULATES IN HERMOSILLO, GUADALAJARA, AND MONTERREY THAT ALL PERSONNEL AT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MEXICO 19204 192338Z

THOSE POSTS ARE ALRIGHT AND THAT THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE MAJOR DAMAGE IN THOSE AREAS.

3. CONCERN REMAINS FOR ACAPULCO, INASMUCH AS LATEST REPORTS PLACE THE EPICENTER OF THE QUAKE (AT A REPORTED SCALE OF 7.3 ON THE RICHTER SCALE) ONLY THIRTY MILES OFF THE MEXICAN PACIFIC COAST SOME 280 KMS NORTH NORTHWEST OF ACAPULCO. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT UP TO NOW OUR CONSULAR AGENT IN ACAPULCO. MEXICAN DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS HAVE INFORMED DAO THAT THEY ARE STILL

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

TRYING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ACAPULCO TO ASSESS DAMAGE.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THERE IS SEVERE DAMAGE ALONG THE COAST NEAR THE EPICENTER. AS THERE IS NO COMMUNICATION WITH ACAPULCO, WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON INJURIES OR DEATHS OF AMCITS. WE ARE SENDING A CONSULAR TEAM TO ACAPULCO FOR ON-THE-SPOT INSPECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO AMCITS AS REQUIRED. WILL REPORT AS INFORMATION DEVELOPS.

5. EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION REPORTS THAT, AS OF 1200 LOCAL, MEXICO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WAS OPEN, WITH FLIGHTS BOTH LANDING AND TAKING OFF. AIRLINES ARE, HOWEVER, EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES WITH REFUELING AS THE EARTHQUAKE DAMAGED AIRPORT SERVICE FACILITIES. THE AIRPORT IS ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH INTERIM FACILITIES. AT LEAST ONE FLIGHT, HOWEVER, DEPARTED BUT WAS OBLIGED TO MAKE AN UNSCHEDULED LANDING IN MIAMI ENROUTE TO WASHINGTON TO REFUEL.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE ALL POSSIBLE WASHINGTON EFFORTS TO CONTACT ACAPULCO. CONSULAR AGENT IS LAMBERT J. URBANEKJ TELEPHONE 91748 31960 OR 917485-6600. BUSBY

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 03 MEXICO 19204 192338Z

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19205 200244Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
EB-08 DINT-05 DODE-00 MMO-01 IO-16 NSAE-00 SSO-00
SY-06 HA-08 INSE-00 PA-02 PER-03 CCO-00 HHS-06
INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-01 SAF-01 CA-02 NAE-00 FBO-06
OES-09 A-02 SYE-00 USIE-00 OC-02 SR-06 PLE-00
PRS-01 SLPD-01 /103 W

-----013035 200247Z /72

O 192130Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3657

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19205

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR
FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, MX, AMGT, PREL, MX

SUBJECT: SITREP 7 - OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION WITH GOM

-
1. DEFENSE ATTACHE CONTACTED FOREIGN LIAISON OFFICE,
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE EARLY THIS MORNING. HE WAS TOLD
EVERYTHING WAS IN ORDER OR BEING PUT IN ORDER AND
THAT NO OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE WAS REQUIRED. HE SAID DEFENSE
WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH US IF THEY NEEDED ASSISTANCE.
OUR INQUIRY WAS APPRECIATED.

-
2. WE HAVE SENT AN OFFICER TO SRE TO TELL THEM THAT WE
WILL BE HELPFUL IN ANY WAY WE CAN IF GOM SHOULD WISH
ANY ASSISTANCE. SRE TELEPHONES HAVE BEEN EITHER
BUSY OR OUT OF ORDER AND WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT
THEM YET. THERE ARE REPORTS OF DAMAGE AT SRE.

-
3. AT THIS TIME, WE ARE NOT REPEAT NOT EXPECTING ANY
REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. (DRAFTED:AHARDY) BUSBY
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MEXICO 19205 200244Z

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19207 192327Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 EUR-00 OPR-01 SSO-00
CCO-00 OCS-06 CA-02 FBOE-00 USIE-00 OC-02 /012 W
-----005452 192332Z /66

O 192138Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3659

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19207

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, MX, AMGT, USIA, FBO

SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE: REQUEST FROM CANADIAN EMBASSY

1. CANADIAN EMBASSY, MEXICO CITY, REQUESTED WE PASS
THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE CANADIAN EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON, D.C.

-

2. BEGIN TEXT. ALL CDN STAFF ACCOUNTED FOR AS WELL AS
FAMILIES. NO INJURIES REPORTED. MOST LOCAL EMPLOYEES
ACCOUNTED FOR AND ARE ENDEAVORING TO CONTACT OTHERS. NO
INJURIES REPORTED EITHER.

-

NO NEWS OF INJURED CDNS IN MEXICO HAVE REACHED US. ARE
ENDEAVORING TO CONTACT HONCONS TO CONFIRM AND WILL
REPORT.

-

PHYSICAL DAMAGES TO CHANCERY SEEM TO BE MINIMAL AT FIRST
GLANCE.

-

TELEPHONE AND OTHER COMMUNICATION OUTSIDE OF CITY CUT
OFF. END TEXT. BUSBY
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REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19207 192327Z

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19209 192330Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 OPR-01 CIAE-00
EB-08 DODE-00 IO-16 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-08
PA-02 CCO-00 HHS-06 INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-01 CA-02
USIE-00 OC-02 SR-06 PRS-01 SLPD-01 /071 W
-----005543 192332Z /66

O 192141Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3660

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19209

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR
DEPT ALSO PASS USIA
FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, MX, AMGT, USIA, FBO

SUBJECT: SITREP 8

1. USIS RSC MANAGER ESTIMATES DAMAGE TO FACILITY AT DOLS 100,000 PLUS. BINDERY AND FOLDER EQUIPMENT DAMAGED, BUT NOT/NOT PRESSES. ONE WALL ON RIGHT SIDE OF PRESS ROOM AND GARAGE HAS CAVED IN. FIFTEEN RSC EMPLOYEES IN BUILDING AT TIME OF EARTHQUAKE WERE NOT/NOT INJURED, HOWEVER. BUILDING HOUSING RSC AND LIBRARY HAS BEEN CLOSED AND SECURED BECAUSE OF THE DANGER OF LEAKING PROPANE GAS AND POSSIBLE AFTER SHOCKS.

2. LIBRARY DAMAGE CONSISTS OF HOLE IN SECOND FLOOR WALL AND SHELVES KNOCKED DOWN, BUT APPARENTLY NO/NO OTHER STRUCTURAL DAMAGE. BUSBY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19212 192301Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 OPR-01 CIAE-00
EB-08 DODE-00 IO-16 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-08
PA-02 HHS-06 INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-01 CA-02 AGR-01
USIE-00 OC-02 SR-06 PRS-01 /071 W
-----004362 192305Z /66

O 192148Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3662

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19212

FOR MEXICO CITY EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

DEPARTMENT PASS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, USDA, MX

SUBJECT: SITREP 10: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
- DAMAGE REPORT.

1. NO KNOWN DAMAGE TO FAS EQUIPMENT OR HOUSES.
NO FAS EMPLOYEE INJURIES REPORTED. AGRICULTURAL COUNSE-
LOR'S HOUSE UNDAMAGED AND DAUGHTER SAFE.
2. PRESENT SITUATION AS KNOWN FOR OTHER USDA AGENCIES IS
AS FOLLOWS:
 - A. PPQ: REGIONAL OFFICE SEVERLY DAMAGED. AREA OFFICE IS
ALRIGHT. ALL EMPLOYEES HAVE REPORTED IN AND THERE ARE
NO INJURIES.
PPQ SUGGESTS CANCELLATION OF AREA DIRECTORS MEETING
SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 24 TO 26. REQUESTS HYATTSVILLE
CONTACT PARTICIPANTS.
PPQ ALSO REQUESTS HYATTSVILLE/PAUL EGGERT CONTACT ED
AYERS IN LIMA APPRAISING HIM OF MEXICO SITUATION AND
THAT HIS FAMILY IS ALRIGHT.
 - B. VS/FMD(AFTOSA): KATHY BACA REPORTS NO DAMAGE AND NO
INJURIES.

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19212 192301Z

- C. VS/SCREWWORM: DIRECTOR DR. NOVY REPORTS SLIGHT DAMAGE
TO BUILDING, BUT EXTENT UNKNOWN. NO KNOWN REPORTED IN-
JURIES.
3. TELEPHONE LINES DOWN. ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT USDA FIELD
PERSONNEL. INITIAL INDICATIONS FROM CONSULATES SUGGEST
ALRIGHT.

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(DRAFTED BY DBYOUNG) GAVIN

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19217 211644Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 SSO-00 EAP-00
CCO-00 INRE-00 OC-02 /013 W

-----113717 211647Z /43

O 192204Z SEP 85 ZDK CTG NUM SVCS
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3665
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19217

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

DEPT FOR AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON D.C.

LONDON PLEASE PASS TO AUSTRALIA HOUSE

CANBERRA PLEASE PASS TO DEPT. OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, MEXICO CITY, REQUESTED WE PASS
THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO ABOVE ADDRESSEES:

-

2. BEGIN TEXT. FROM MCCARTHY. A SERIOUS EARTHQUAKE
OCCURRED IN MEXICO CITY AT APPROXIMATELY 0730 HOURS
(LT). SEVERAL BUILDINGS HAVE COLLAPSED. TELEPHONES AND
ELECTRICITY APPEAR LARGELY TO BE OUT OF ORDER. SEVERAL
DEATHS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. BUILDING 30 METRES FROM
CHANCERY HAS PARTIALLY COLLAPSED CRUSHING ONE EMBASSY
VEHICLE.

-

3. ALL A-BASED STAFF IN MEXICO CITY ARE SAFE. WE ARE
CHECKING ON DUNDAS AND GWYNE WHO ARE ON LEAVE, BUT
HAVE NO REASON FOR UNDUE ALARM.

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19217 211644Z

-

4. WHILE OUR CHANCERY APPEARS STRUCTURALLY SOUND, I
HAVE EVACUATED ALL STAFF UNTIL A PROFESSIONAL ASSESSMENT
CAN BE MADE.

-

REPORTED STRENGTH OF EARTHQUAKE WAS 7.2 ON RICHTER SCALE.

-

PLEASE ADVISE NEXT OF KIN. END TEXT. BUSBY

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19218 200501Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 EUR-00 SS-00 SSO-00 CCO-00
OCS-06 OC-02 /009 W

-----016127 200507Z /21

O 192204Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3666

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19218

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

EO 12356 NA
TAGS AEMR, EAID, MX
SUBJ: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE: REQUEST FROM SWEDISH EMBASSY

PLEASE TRANSMIT FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS STOCKHOLM FROM MRS. KERSTIN ENNERFELT,
COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY, SWEDISH EMBASSY MEXICO CITY.

- A) SWEDISH EMBASSY IS ALRIGHT.
- B) ALL EMBASSY COMMUNICATIONS ARE OUT OF ORDER.
- C) AREAS WHERE MOST SWEDISH PEOPLE LIVE SEEM TO BE
ALRIGHT. BUSBY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19220 200425Z
ACTION OCS-06

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 EUR-00 SS-00 ARA-00 SSO-00
CA-02 /009 W

-----015152 200436Z /11

O 192212Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3668

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19220

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

EO 12356 NA
TAGS AEMR, EAID, MX
SUBJ: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE: REQUEST FROM DANISH EMBASSY

QTE: PLEASE PASS ON TO THE DUTY OFFICER OF THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THE FOLLOWING
TWO URGENT MESSAGES FROM THE DANISH EMBASSY
IN MEXICO:
MEXICO CITY WAS HIT BY AN EARTHQUAKE THIS MORNING.
AS FAR AS THE EMBASSY KNOWS NO DANES ARE INVOLVED.
HANSEN/219

FOR ALBERTSEN, PK.1
AMMPE CONFIRMED LAST NIGHT THAT PREPAID TICKET ADVICE WOULD BE
SENT TODAY. HAVE IN VAIN (DUE TO EARTHQUAKE) ATTEMPTED TO RECEIVE
CONFIRMATION AND INFORMATION AS PER WHICH AIRLINE. HOTEL RESER-
VATION ARRANGED. SUPPLIMENTARY INFORMATION FOLLOWS AS SOON AS
AT ALL POSSIBLE.
HANSEN 218 UNQTE BUSBY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19222 200429Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00
OPR-01 CIAE-00 EB-08 DODE-00 IO-16 NSCE-00 NSAE-00
SSO-00 HA-08 PA-02 PER-03 CCO-00 HHS-06 INRE-00
OCS-06 FDRE-01 CA-02 FBOE-00 OSE-00 A-02 USIE-00
OC-02 SR-06 PRS-01 SLPD-01 /076 W

-----015204 200452Z /11

O 192220Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3671

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19222

FOR MEXICO CITY EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 11: EARTHQUAKE

1. ALTHOUGH EARLY REPORTS DO NOT LIST MANY DEATHS INDICATIONS ARE THAT DEATH TOLL MAY MOUNT SIGNIFICANTLY AS MORE INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE. SIGNS OF THIS ARE CROWDED HOSPITALS AND NUMBER OF BUILDINGS, INCLUDING HOTELS, KNOWN TO HAVE COLLAPSED ENTIRELY OR HAVE HAD SEVERAL FLOORS COLLAPSE. THESE REPORTS EVEN THOUGH FRAGMENTARY ALREADY SUGGEST SUBSTANTIAL LOSS OF LIFE.

2. MEXICAN DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS REPORTED AT 1510 THAT THERE WAS NO DAMAGE FROM THE EARTHQUAKE IN MERIDA OR IXTAPA AND ONLY MINOR DAMAGE IN ACAPULCO. DEFENSE SAID THE TWO HARDEST HIT AREAS WERE MEXICO CITY AND THE STATE OF MORELOS.

3. THE AMERICAN SCHOOL (COLLEGIO AMERICANO) AND THE SEVERAL OTHER SCHOOLS IN THE LOMAS AREA USED BY MISSION
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19222 200429Z

PERSONNEL REPORTED THAT THEY HAVE NOT SUFFERED ANY STRUCTURAL DAMAGE TO SCHOOL FACILITIES. CLASSES WERE CONDUCTED AS USUAL. THERE WERE NO KNOWN INJURIES TO FACULTY MEMBERS ALTHOUGH SEVERAL AMERICAN FACULTY MEMBERS HAD NOT YET BEEN CONTACTED.

4. THE SEISMIC CENTER AT UNAM HAS UPDATED THEIR REPORT ON THE EARTHQUAKE. THEY HAVE RECORDED 15 AFTERSHOCKS HAVING MAGNITUDES BETWEEN 3 AND 4 ON THE RICHTER SCALE. THE

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STRONGEST AN INTENSITY OF 3 ON THE MERCALLI SCALE AND OCCURRED IN MEXICO CITY AT 1415 LOCAL TIME.

-
5. THE US GEOLOGICAL SERVICE REPORTS THAT THEIR READINGS OF THE EARTHQUAKE ARE THAT IT OCCURRED AT 0717 LOCAL TIME WITH THE EPICENTER AT 18.1N AND 102.3W. THEY ESTIMATE THE EARTHQUAKE REGISTERED 7.8 ON THE RICHTER SCALE.

-
6. PRESS ATTACHE SPOKE WITH REPORTER EARLIER TODAY AND SAID THAT EMBASSY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY AMERICAN OR MEXICAN EMPLOYEE WHO WAS INJURED OR KILLED; AND THAT WE HAD HEARD FROM ALL BUT ONE CONSULATE AT THAT TIME. PRESS ATTACHE ALSO TOLD REPORTER THAT ANY ONE WHO HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF AN AMERICAN WHO WAS INJURED OR KILLED SHOULD CALL THE EMBASSY, AND THEN GAVE THE EMBASSY TELEPHONE NUMBER. THESE MESSAGES WERE BROADCAST IN ENGLISH OVER MEXICAN RADIO EARLY AFTERNOON LOCAL TIME.

-
-
7. EMBASSY WILL HAVE SKELETON STAFF OF OFFICERS, SECRETARIES AND COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL ON DUTY THROUGH-
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PAGE 03 MEXICO 19222 200429Z

OUT THE NIGHT AND WILL BE OPEN FOR NORMAL BUSINESS TOMORROW. BUSBY

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19224 200522Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 OCS-06 /017 W

-----016533 200526Z /10

O 192224Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3672

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19224

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

EO 12356 NA
TAGS AEMR, EAID, MX
SUBJ: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE: REQUEST FROM BELGIUM EMBASSY

PLEASE PASS BELGIUM EMBASSY WASHDC

QTE:

GRAVE EARTHQUAKE HAS OCCURRED THIS THURSDAY MORNING AT 7.20 A.M.
(15.20 H. BELGIAN TIME) IN THE CENTRAL PART OF MEXICO WITH SERIOUS
DAMAGES IN THE CAPITAL. UP TO NOW THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS IS UNKNOWN:
MANY PERSONS ARE STILL TRAPPED IN THE COLLAPSED BUILDINGS.
ALL MEMBERS OF EMBASSY STAFF ARE SAFE, ONLY MINOR MATERIAL DAMAGES
HAVE BEEN REPORTED BY SOME OF THEM.
ACCORDING TO FIRST INFORMATION OBTAINED, WE DONT KNOW OF ANY VICTIM
IN THE BELGIAN COMMUNITY.

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PAGE 01 STATE 288643
ORIGIN ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY: ARA:AHEISNER:JD
APPROVED BY: ARA:JHMICHEL
ARA/MEX:APSHANKLE
S/S-O:GTALCOTT

RELEASED IN FULL

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O 191803Z SEP 85 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 288643

FROM ABRAMS FOR CHARGE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MX
SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE

DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER REPORTS OF EARTHQUAKE. NOW THAT
COMMUNICATION HAS BEEN REESTABLISHED, PLEASE KEEP US
INFORMED OF HOW WE CAN HELP. SHULTZ

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PAGE 01 STATE 289120
ORIGIN ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 EUR-00 SS-00 OPR-01
AF-00 MMO-01 IO-16 NEA-06 SSO-00 EAP-00 AIT-02
PA-01 CA-02 SIG-03 A-02 USIE-00 OC-02 /037 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O:LBARNES
APPROVED BY MEXICO TASK FORCE:APSHANKLE
S/S-O:GMTALCOTT

-----003375 192244Z /72

RELEASED IN FULL

O 192226Z SEP 85
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO NIACT IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE
ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS
GUADALAJARA IMMEDIATE
MONTERREY IMMEDIATE
MAZATLAN IMMEDIATE
MERIDA IMMEDIATE
MATAMOROS IMMEDIATE
HERMOSILLO IMMEDIATE
TIJUANA IMMEDIATE
CIUDAD JUAREZ IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 289120

E.O. 12356: DECL OADR
TAGS: AMGT, CASC, MDRO
SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP ON
- MEXICAN EARTHQUAKE.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR OR PRINCIPAL OFFICER FROM THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

1. ON SEPTEMBER 19 AT 1200 EDT A WORKING GROUP WAS
ESTABLISHED IN THE OPERATIONS CENTER TO DEAL WITH THE
SITUATION IN MEXICO.

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PAGE 02 STATE 289120

2. THE WORKING GROUP IS UNDER THE FORMAL DIRECTION OF
ASSISTANT SECRETARY ABRAMS. DAY-TO-DAY DIRECTION IS
BEING UNDERTAKEN BY PERRY SHANKLE. THE GROUP INCLUDES
REPRESENTATIVES OF ARA, CA, OC, OPR AND OFDA.

3. TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR THE WORKING GROUP ARE (202)
632-6610 FOR NON-SECURE CALLS AND KY-71 ID NO. 02575
PHONE (202) 632-9327 AND 5228 FOR SECURE VOICE CALLS.

4. YOU SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT CONSIDERABLE PRESS

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ATTENTION WILL BE FOCUSED ON THIS GROUP, AND ITS ACTIVITIES WILL BE OF INTEREST TO A VARIETY OF WASHINGTON AGENCIES. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT, IN YOUR REPORTING OF PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE INFORMATION ON POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS, YOU MAKE CAREFUL USE OF APPROPRIATE CAPTIONS, SUCH AS EXDIS.

5. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED: BEIRUT, KABUL, GUANGZHOU, MAPUTO, KAMPALA, MEXICO. SHULTZ

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 MAZATL 00702 260607Z
ACTION OCS-06

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSCE-00 ARA-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 INRE-00
CA-02 ANAE-00 OC-02 /021 W
-----362303 260610Z /16

O 202246Z SEP 85 ZDK
FM AMCONSUL MAZATLAN
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3859

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MAZATLAN 0702

AMEMBASSY FOR DICK PETERSON, FM, ADMN, CPO
SECSTATE FOR SCS/OCS
E. O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJ: EFFECTS OF EARTHQUAKE ON MAZATLAN

REF: MEXICO SVC 1806

1. POST DOES REPEAT DOES HAVE BOTH TELEPHONE AND TELEX
COMMUNICATIONS TO THE U.S.

2. POST HAS LEARNED OF NO REPEAT NO DEATHS OR INJURIES
IN SINALOA OR NAYARIT. FURTHERMORE, THERE ARE NO
REPEAT NO REPORTS OF DAMAGES IN THESE STATES.

URBAN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19233 200504Z
ACTION OCS-06

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 EB-08
DODE-00 IO-16 NSCE-00 ARA-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-08
PA-02 DOTE-00 FEMA-02 INM-07 HHS-06 INRE-00 FDRE-01
CA-02 CG-00 USIE-00 SR-06 PRS-01 /076 W
-----016223 200508Z /21

O 200022Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3674

UNCLAS MEXICO 19233

RELEASED IN FULL

FOR CA/OCA/CCS/ARA/EMR

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 12 - MEXICO EARTHQUAKE

1. LATEST RADIO REPORTS (1700 LOCAL TIME) SPECIFY
THAT THERE HAVE BEEN A TOTAL OF 59 KNOWN DEAD SO
FAR IN THE MEXICO CITY AREA.

-

2. POST IS SENDING TASK FORCE OF THREE CONSULAR
OFFICERS TO ACAPULCO, SINCE EFFORTS TO CONTACT
CONSULAR AGENT BON URBANEK HAVE PROVED UNSUCCESSFUL.
OFFICERS WILL TRAVEL BY PROP PLANE TO ACAPULCO THIS
EVENING AND WILL BE PREPARED TO ASSIST AMERICANS
AND REPORT ON CONDITIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. POST
WILL INFORM DEPARTMENT OF FINDINGS AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.

-

3. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM AMATEUR RADIO SOURCES
THAT THE SITUATION IN OAXACA, VERACRUZ, AND
ACAPULCO APPEARS TO BE UNDER CONTROL.
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19233 200504Z

-

4. FOR POST'S BEST ESTIMATE OF AMERICAN CITIZENS
RESIDING WITHIN MEXICO CITY CONSULAR DISTRICT,
PLEASE CONSULT FORM F-77 "EMERGENCY PLANNING -
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF POTENTIAL EVACUEES", SUBMITTED
MARCH 1985 (APPROX.) TO DEPARTMENT. THE TOTAL IN THE
FEDERAL DISTRICT IS 158,868, IN CONSULAR DISTRICT,
339,175.

-

4. GOM AUTHORITIES ARE REQUESTING THROUGH THE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

MEDIA FOLLOWING ARTICLES REQUIRED FOR EXCAVATION
OF DAMAGED BUILDINGS: SHOVELS, PICKS, FLASHLIGHTS,
BLANKETS, BUCKETS, WORK GLOVES, BLOOD PLASMA,
BANDAGES AND PENICILIN. EMBASSY CHECK
RESOURCES TO SEE WHETHER WE CAN PROVIDE EMERGENCY
HELP.

-
5. WE HAVE NOW HAD CONTACT WITH ALL OUR CONSULATES
(INCLUDING MERIDA, WHICH WE EARLIER HAD DIFFICULTY
CONTACTING), AND ALL PERSONNEL ARE SAFE AND WITHOUT
INJURY. BUSBY

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19240 200417Z
ACTION OCS-06

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
EB-08 DODE-00 H-01 IO-16 NSCE-00 ARA-00 NSAE-00
SSO-00 HA-08 L-03 PM-10 PA-02 CCO-00 OMB-01
HHS-06 INRE-00 FDRE-01 CA-02 ANAE-00 USIE-00 SP-02
SR-06 SNP-01 PRS-01 SLPD-01 SPD-01 /087 W
-----015075 200422Z /16

O 200207Z SEP 85 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3681

UNCLAS MEXICO 19240

RELEASED IN FULL

FOR CA/OCA/CCS/ARA/EMR

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX

SUBJECT: SITREP 14 MEXICO EARTHQUAKE - EMERGENCY

- SUPPLIES PROVIDED MEXICAN AUTHORITIES -
- DAMAGE IN CENTRAL MEXICO CITY
-

1. IN RESPONSE TO A GENERAL TELEVIZED REQUEST FOR
ASSISTANCE, THE FOLLOWING EMERGENCY SUPPLIES WERE PROVIDED
BY THE EMBASSY TO THE MEXICAN DISASTER RELIEF AUTHORITIES,
THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 1985:

-
- GAUZE, ROLLER BANDAGES 12
- GAUZE PETROLEUM IMPREGNATED 30
- STERILIZED PADS 100
- SURGICAL TAPE 2 ROLLS
- GAUZE BANDAGES, LARGE 12
- LARGE ROLLED ADHESIVE BANDAGES 2
- TOPPER SPONGES 150
- COMFORMING GAUZE BANDAGES, LG. 1
- UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19240 200417Z

IV INJECTION SET 12 SETS.
STRETCHER 1
UTILITY GLOVES 3 PAIRS
FLASHLITES 9
BATTERIES D CELL 96
BLANKETS 12
BUCKETS 2
PILLOWS 2

-
-

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

2. EMBASSY PERSONNEL SURVEYED PARTS OF THE ALAMEDA PARK AREA, WITH SPECIFIC ATTENTION TO THE HOTELS WHERE AMERICANS MIGHT HAVE BEEN STAYING.

4. HOTEL PRINCIPAL. BODIES APPEAR TO BE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING OUT. THE BUILDING HAS COLLAPSED, AND THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A FIRE.

5. DE CARLO HOTEL IS STILL STANDING, BUT IT APPEARS THAT THE SIXTH FLOOR COLLAPSED ONTO THE FIFTH. MANY OF THE GUESTS WHO SURVIVED THE COLLAPSE WERE REPORTEDLY TAKEN IN BY FRIENDS AND FAMILIES. THERE WERE REPORTEDLY STILL BODIES IN THE HOTEL.

6. REGIS HOTEL HAS COLLAPSED, AND IS STILL SMOKING. EMBASSY PERSONNEL WERE NOT PERMITTED TO GO NEAR THE SCENE. THE ARMY IS PATROLLING. THE HOTEL ROMANO HAS COMPLETELY COLLAPSED. WORKERS ON THE SCENE INFORMED EMBASSY PERSONNEL THAT THERE ARE ABOUT EIGHTY BODIES STILL INSIDE THE BUILDING. THEY ALSO SAID THAT THE ZOCALO AND BELLAS ARTES ARE CALM, AND THERE ARE BUILDINGS DESTROYED IN TLATELOCO AND MERCED.

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PAGE 03 MEXICO 19240 200417Z

7. MEXICAN TELEVISION HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THERE NO PROBLEMS IN ACAPULCO, AND THAT FOUR HOTELS IN IXTAPA/ZIHUATANEJO SUSTAINED SOME DAMAGES AND HAD TO BE EVACUATED, INCLUDING THE SHERATON HOTEL THERE. BUSBY

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19241 200440Z
ACTION OCS-06

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 OIC-02
CIAE-00 EB-08 DODE-00 H-01 IO-16 NSCE-00 ARA-00
NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-08 L-03 PM-10 PA-02 OMB-01
HHS-06 INRE-00 FDRE-01 CA-02 USIE-00 SP-02 SR-06
SNP-01 PRS-01 SLPD-01 SPD-01 /089 W
-----015322 200443Z /16

O 200242Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3682

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19241

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK OFFICE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, MX, AMGT, USIA, FBO
SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE: REQUEST FROM UNITED NATIONS
HEADQUARTERS

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK
TELEX NUMBERS 023-177642 OR 023-0126171 OR 023-177742
OR IF CANNOT BE REACHED BY TELEX VIA USA MISSION TO
UNITED NATIONS, FIRST AVENUE, N. Y.

ECMEX 278-09 IMMEDIATE/ ALICE WEIL/ CHARLES WRIGHT INFO
GAMBERINI ECLAC/SANTIAGO RE SUFFERED EARTHQUAKE MEXICO
CITY TODAY HEREBY REPORTING THAT SO FAR NO CASUALTIES
WERE REPORTED BY UNATIONS STAFF IN MEXICO CITY. MINOR
INTERIOR PROPERTY DAMAGE TO OFFICES IN MAZARYK 29
BUILDING REPORTED. STAFF SENT HOME UNTIL BUILDING
DECLARED SAFE BY BUILDING'S OWNER APPOINTED EXPERT. LD
TELEPHONE AND TELEX LINKS ARE INOPERATIVE AND THIS
MESSAGE TRANSMITTED THROUGH GOOD OFFICES USA EMBASSY
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19241 200440Z

MEXICO CITY. PLEASE RETRANSMIT THIS TELEX TO GAMBERINI
ECLAC/SANTIAGO. (WORTEL-ECLAC/MEXICO). BUSBY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19242 200455Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
OCS-06 /017 W

-----015732 200503Z /17

RELEASED IN FULL

O 200245Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3683

UNCLAS MEXICO 19242

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK OFFICE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS:AEMR, EAID, MX, AMGT, USIA, FBO
SUBJECT:MEXICO EARTQUAKE: REQUEST FROM HONDURAS EMBASSY

TO: SENOR DOCTOR EDGARDO PAZ BARNICA, MINISTRO DE
RELACIONES EXTERIORES, TEGUCIGALPA, D. C. HONDURAS, C. A.

FROM: RICARDO ARTURO PINEDA MILLA, EMBAJADOR

CUMPLO CON INFORMAR A USTED, QUE EN TRAGICOS ACONTECI-
MIENTOS OCURRIDOS EL DIA DE HOY EN ESTA CIUDAD; PERSONAL
DE ESTA MISION Y DEMAS PERSONAS ALLEGADAS A LA MISMA, SE
ENCUENTRAN SIN NOVEDAD, NO ASI LAS INSTALACIONES FISICAS
DEL INMUEBLE DONDE SE ENCUENTRA UBICADA NUESTRA EMBAJADA.

RUEGOLE GIRAR SUS AMABLES INSTRUCCIONES A FIN DE QUE SE
INFORME A NUESTROS FAMILIARES LO ANTERIOR.

ALTA CONSIDERACION. (PASADO POR SONIA GARCIA). NUMERO DE
TELEX EN CANCELLERIA HONDURENA 03741129. BUSBY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19243 200535Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 SS-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 OC-02
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-----016762 200535Z /21

O 200247Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3684

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19243

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK OFFICE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, MX, AMGT, USIA, FBO
SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE: REQUEST FROM NETHERLANDS
EMBASSY

TO: NETHERLANDS EMBASSY, WASHINGTON TELEX NO. 0248336

FROM: NETHERLANDS EMBASSY, MEXICO CITY

QUOTE

PLEASE FORWARD TO HOLLAND INTERNATIONAL, TELEX NO. 34329
AND BY TELEPHONE NO. 070-456043, THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:
MOST IMMEDIATE.

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE MEXICO CITY.

GROUP OF 26 PERSONS, LEFT 14TH SEPTEMBER FOR MEXICO,
HOTEL DEL PRADO, ARE WITHOUT ANY PERSONAL INJURIES AND
ARE WELL.

INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE AND TELEX CONNECTIONS ARE NOT
POSSIBLE FOR THE MOMENT.

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19243 200535Z

KEEP YOU INFORMED AS SOON AS MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE.

ROB MIN

UNQUOTE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

KASTEEL 3202. BUSBY

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19246 01 OF 02 200349Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
EB-08 DODE-00 H-01 IO-16 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 COME-00
SSO-00 HA-08 L-03 PM-10 PA-02 CCO-00 OMB-01
HHS-06 INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-01 CA-02 USIE-00 SP-02
OC-02 SR-06 SNP-01 PRS-01 TCIP-05 SPD-01 /093 W
-----014471 200403Z /10

O 200255Z SEP 85 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3687

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 19246

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

FOR MEXICO CITY EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 15 - RADIO AND TELEVISION COVERAGE OF
- EARTHQUAKE
-

1. USIS HAS BEEN MONITORING RADIO AND TELEVISION REPORTS ON THE TRAGIC EARTHQUAKE THAT STRUCK MEXICO SINCE 0719 THIS MORNING WHEN IT HAPPENED. RADIO REPORTS FIRST INDICATED THAT THE DAMAGE APPEARED TO BE LIGHT AS MOST OF THE STATIONS ARE OUTSIDE THE CENTER OF THE CITY. MOBILE UNITS REPORTED ONLY SLIGHT DAMAGE. ONE RADIO STATION IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY DID REPORT THAT SOME OF THE BUILDINGS AROUND IT HAD COLLAPSED. AS THE MOBILE UNITS AND REPORTERS WERE ABLE TO APPROACH DOWNTOWN, REPORTS ON THE DAMAGE BECAME MORE EXTENSIVE.

2. TELEVISA, THE PRIVATE TELEVISION CONGLOMERATE WAS UNABLE TO GO ON THE AIR UNTIL NOON AND VIDEO AND AUDIO RECEPTION SINCE THEN HAS BEEN FAIR. ONE OF TELEVISA'S
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THREE MAIN TOWERS AS WELL AS ITS NEWSROOM, OFFICES AND MAJOR STUDIOS IN DOWNTOWN MEXICO CITY WERE SEVERELY DAMAGED AND AT LEAST TWO REPORTERS AND PROBABLY OTHER EMPLOYEES WERE KILLED. TELEVISA'S SIGNAL IS NOW COMING FROM ITS STUDIO IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE CITY. THE REPORTS HAVE STARTED TO STRESS WHAT I ABOUT SOME OF THE MAJOR BUILDINGS THAT COLLAPSED. IMEVISION, THE GOVERNMENT TELEVISION NETWORK BEGAN TRANSMITTING EARLY BUT BECAUSE THE ELECTRICITY TO MAJOR PORTIONS OF THE CITY WAS CUT WITH THE QUAKE A LARGE SEGMENT OF THE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

CITY'S POPULATION HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO SEE THE GRISLY SCENES OF THE RUBBLE AND THE BODIES OF THE DEAD AND INJURED BROUGHT OUT OF THE DAMAGED AND COLLAPSED BUILDINGS.

3. DURING THE DAY, IMEVISION CONTINUALLY SHOWED SCENES OF THE TRAGEDY, WITHOUT INFORMATION FROM SEVERAL REPORTERS THROUGHOUT THE CITY. THE COMMENTATORS IN THE STUDIO GAVE GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE TRAGEDY AND ALSO HAVE SERVED AS A LINK WITH THE OUTSIDE PASSING SHORT MESSAGES TO RELATIVES OUTSIDE OF MEXICO CITY SAYING SO AND SO ARE OKAY.

4. AS OF 1800 HOURS, TELEVISA AND OTHER REPORTERS HAVE SAID THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO GIVE OUR FIGURES ON DEATHS AND INJURIES. DOZENS OF BUILDINGS HAVE COLLAPSED THEY SAY. (EARLIER, THE MEXICO CITY CHIEF OF POLICE SAID THAT 40 MAJOR BUILDINGS AND 60 MINOR ONES HAD COLLAPSED IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY.) WHEREVER EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE GONE IN THE AREA NEAR THE EMBASSY, TRADE CENTER AND LIBRARY, THEY HAVE VERIFIED THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE. WHAT HAS NOT BEEN SHOWN ON TELEVISION ARE MINOR DAMAGES THROUGHOUT THE CITY: BROKEN WINDOWS EVERYWHERE, CLUNKS OF PLASTER ON
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THE GROUND, CRACKS IN THE FACING WALLS, ETC. THE CITY LOOKS LIKE IT HAS BEEN IN A WAR, AT LEAST PARTS OF IT.

5. AROUND 17:30 HOURS MEXICO CITY TIME, TELEVISA SAID THAT INFORMATION THEY GOT FROM ACAPULCO INDICATES THAT EVERYTHING IS FINE IN THAT RESORT AREA.

6. THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE CONFIRMED THAT IN THE FEDERAL DISTRICT, 20 PEOPLE ARE DEAD, 700 ARE TRAPPED AND HUNDREDS ARE HOSPITALIZED

7. TV COVERAGE STRESSES THAT DAMAGE WAS CONSIDERABLE IN DOWNTOWN MEXICO CITY CONFIRMING THAT 23 BUILDINGS COLLAPSED COMPLETELY. NUMBER OF BUILDINGS ARE SAID TO BE IN DANGER OF COLLAPSING. 700 FIREMEN IN MEXICO CITY ARE WORKING IN THE RESCUE OPERATIONS, AS WELL AS 100 FIREMEN FROM NEIGHBORING STATES. MEXICO CITY'S POLICE FORCE AND THE ARMY ARE ALSO WORKING IN THE RESCUE OPERATIONS, AND HAVE ESTABLISHED A RESTRICTED ACCESS ZONE AROUND THE DOWNTOWN AREA. THE MEXICAN ARMY PUT THE DM-3 NATIONAL EMERGENCY PLAN IN EFFECT.

8. MEXICO CITY'S MEDICAL CENTER SUFFERED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE, BUT APPROXIMATELY 70 PERCENT OF ITS FACILITIES ARE STILL FUNCTIONING. HOSPITAL JUAREZ, A MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY, HAS PARTIALLY COLLAPSED. AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF DOCTORS AND PATIENTS ARE STILL TRAPPED IN THE DEBRIS.

9. IT IS REPORTED THAT AROUND 20 AFTERSHOCKS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED IN THE CITY. HELICOPTER FLYING OVER THE CITY HAS NOW BEEN BANNED BECAUSE THE VIBRATIONS COULD CAUSE SEVERAL DAMAGED BUILDINGS TO COLLAPSE.

10. MEXICO'S TELEPHONE COMPANY SAYS IT IS WORKING ON THE

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19246 02 OF 02 200351Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
EB-08 DODE-00 H-01 IO-16 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 COME-00
SSO-00 HA-08 L-03 PM-10 PA-02 CCO-00 OMB-01
HHS-06 INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-01 CA-02 USIE-00 SP-02
OC-02 SR-06 SNP-01 PRS-01 TCIP-05 SPD-01 /093 W
-----014505 200403Z /10

O 200255Z SEP 85 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3688

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 MEXICO 19246

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

FOR MEXICO CITY EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX

SUBJECT: SITREP 15 - RADIO AND TELEVISION COVERAGE OF

RESUMPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS TO AND FROM MEXICO CITY. HOWEVER, IT IS STILL UNCERTAIN WHEN SERVICE WILL RESUME. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TELEFONOS DE MEXICO SAID THIS AFTERNOON THAT DAMAGE TO THE COMPANY'S FACILITIES IS VERY SERIOUS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE SERVICE IS OUT IN THIRTEEN STATES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. TELEX COMMUNICATION IS ALSO OUT. LOCAL TELEPHONE SERVICE IS STILL FUNCTIONING IN MEXICO CITY.

11. THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM HAS INFORMED THAT MOST OF FOREIGN TOURISTS ARE REPORTED TO BE FINE. HOWEVER, TWO MEDIUM SIZE HOTELS IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA HAVE COMPLETELY

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19250 200615Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
DINT-05 DODE-00 H-01 IO-16 NSCE-00 ARA-00 NSAE-00
COME-00 SSO-00 HA-08 L-03 TRSE-00 PM-10 OPIC-07
PA-02 CEA-01 OMB-01 STR-20 INM-07 HHS-06 INRE-00
OCS-06 FDRE-01 CA-02 OES-09 ACDA-12 JUS-01 USIE-00
SP-02 DOEE-00 SR-06 SNP-01 PRS-01 SLPD-01 SSA-02
/150 W

-----017654 200620Z /16

O 200328Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3692

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19250

DEPT PASS OPEC COLLECTIVE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EPET, MX
SUBJECT: MEXICO'S OIL INDUSTRY UNAFFECTED BY EARTHQUAKE

1. PETOFF SPOKE WITH HIGH-LEVEL PEMEX OFFICIAL WHO REPORTED THAT PEMEX OPERATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN AFFECTED BY THE SEVERE THURSDAY MORNING EARTHQUAKE. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL, REPORTS SAY THAT ALL PRODUCT AND OIL LINES AND REFINING FACILITIES ARE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY. ONE GAS DISTRIBUTOR WAS REPORTING A GAS LEAK BUT OTHERWISE THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IS INTACT. ONLY PROBLEM ANTICIPATED IS ROAD TRANSIT TO SOME AREAS OF THE CITY OR COUNTRY.

2. WE EXPECT THAT PEMEX EXPORT OPERATIONS WILL BE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY. BUSBY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT/NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

PAGE 02 MEXICO 19250 200615Z

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19251 200419Z
ACTION OCS-06

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 EUR-00 SS-00 ARA-00 SSO-00
CCO-00 CA-02 /009 W

-----015115 200435Z /11

RELEASED IN FULL

O 200352Z SEP 85 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3693

UNCLAS MEXICO 19251

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMB

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, MX
SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE: REQUEST FROM POLISH EMBASSY

THE POLISH AMBASSADOR IN MEXICO CITY HAS REQUESTED THAT WE
COMMUNICATE TO THE POLISH FOREIGN MINISTRY THROUGH THE STATE
DEPARTMENT THAT THERE ARE NO POLISH CASUALTIES IN MEXICO CITY.
BUSBY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 19256 200752Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
EB-08 DINT-05 DODE-00 MMO-01 IO-16 NSCE-00 NSAE-00
SSO-00 SY-06 HA-08 INSE-00 PA-01 PER-01 CCO-00
HHS-04 INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-01 SAF-01 CA-02 FBOE-00
AGR-01 OES-09 A-02 SYE-00 USIE-00 OC-02 SR-06
PLE-00 PRS-01 SLPD-01 /093 W

-----022575 200810Z /11

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FM AMEMBASY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0000

RELEASED IN FULL

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 19256

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 17

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ALTHOUGH IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT DE LA MADRID WOULD ADDRESS THE NATION AT 1900 HOURS, NOTHING HAPPENED UNTIL ABOUT 2120 HRS WHEN THE SECRETARIES OF GOVERNMENT, DEFENSE, NAVY AND COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFLY SPOKE IN THAT ORDER ON A NATIONAL RADIO TV HOOKUP TO THE COUNTRY. THE MAJOR STATEMENT MENTIONED BY THEM WAS THAT ONLY THE FEDERAL DISTRICT AND THE STATES OF MEXICO, GUERRERO, MICHOACAN, AND COLIMA SUFFERED DAMAGE. THE OTHER STATES WERE NOT DAMAGED.

3. AFTER A TWENTY MINUTE INTERVAL, THE MAYOR OF MEXICO CAME ON THE AIR TO GIVE A SHORT PRESS CONFERENCE. HE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 19256 200752Z

MENTIONED SOME THINGS AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE SUCH AS WATER, ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONES. HE STATED THAT FIFTY BUILDINGS COLLAPSED AND OVER A THOUSAND WERE DAMAGED. FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE WERE INJURED AND THOUSANDS WERE TRAPPED, HE SAID. THE MAYOR ASSURED THE PUBLIC THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO ALL IT COULD TO PUT EVERYTHING IN ORDER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. WHEN THE INFORMATION OFFICER ASKED THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS WHY THE PRESIDENT DID NOT

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

MAKE AN APPEARANCE, THE REPLY WAS THAT SHE DIDN'T KNOW.
BUSBY

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19271 201535Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 SS-00 AF-00 SSO-00 /001 W
-----044744 201537Z /44

RELEASED IN FULL

O 201052Z SEP 85 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3753

UNCLAS MEXICO 19271

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, IV, MX
SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE: WELFARE OF IVORIAN AMBASSADOR AND STAFF

REF: A) STATE 289885; B) ABIDJAN 15610.

WIFE OF AMBASSADOR, ROLANDE KACOU, STATES AMBASSADOR KACOU IS IN NEW YORK, EN ROUTE TO ABIDJAN. SHE AND STAFF ARE SAFE AND WELL. GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19275 202306Z
ACTION OCS-06

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 H-01 ARA-00 SSO-00 CA-02
/010 W

-----070377 202308Z /63
O 201412 Z SEP 85 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3761

UNCLAS MEXICO 19275

FOR SLUG : CA / OCS / CCS / ARA / EMR

RELEASED IN FULL

E. O. 12356: N /A
TAGS : AEMR , CASC , MX
SUBJ : MEXICO CITY EARTHQUAKE : AMCITS OKAY

1. WOULD APPRECIATE THE FOLLOWING PRIORITY PHONE
CALL FROM AMCIT MIKE LEVITT TO DR . MEL PERELMAN
(317) 261-2000. MESSAGE : ALL EMPLOYEES ARE FINE ,
PLANT IS OPERATIONAL , SOME DAMAGE TO INVENTORY . MAY
NEED EMERGENCY SUPPLIED (AIR SHIPMENT).
GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

UNCLASSIFIED

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MEXICO 19277 201543Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
EB-08 DODE-00 IO-16 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-08
PA-02 CCO-00 HHS-06 INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-00 CA-02
USIE-00 OC-02 SR-06 PRS-01 SLPD-01 /069 W
-----045226 201546Z /52

O 201434Z SEP 85 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3764
INFO USMISSION GENEVA 0778

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19277

FOR AID/OFDA

GENEVA FOR UNDRO, LRCS

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PRESL, OPDC, MX, AMGT
SUBJECT: DISASTER DECLARATION

AS A RESULT OF THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE WHICH
OCCURRED IN MEXICO ON SEPTEMBER 19, 1985, I DECLARE
THAT A STATE OF DISASTER EXISTS IN MEXICO AND I AM
REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S
OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE. GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19282 201807Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 H-01 IO-16 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-08
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OCS-06 FDRE-00 CA-02 ANAE-00 USIE-00 SP-02 OC-02
SR-06 SNP-01 PRS-01 SPD-01 /079 W
-----054367 201813Z /52

O 201656Z SEP 85 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3770

UNCLAS MEXICO 19282

RELEASED IN FULL

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 18

1. "THE NEWS", MEXICO CITY'S ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER, COVERED THE EARTHQUAKE EXTENSIVELY, IN PART BECAUSE IT HAD NO INTERNATIONAL NEWS TO REPORT EXCEPT THOSE ITEMS IT RECEIVED BEFORE 0719 YESTERDAY MORNING. THE FRONT-PAGE BANNER HEADLINE READ: "EARTHQUAKE'S LEGACY: DEVASTATION" WITH THE SUBHEAD: MANY STILL BURIED IN RUBBLE AS FIRES, GAS LEAKS CONTINUE; NATION RALLIES AROUND VICTIMS". THE STORY WAS A RESUME OF WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY, MENTIONING THE STRENGTH OF THE TREMOR (7.8 ON THE RICHTER SCALE); THE AREA MOST DAMAGED (DOWNTOWN AND ROMA NEIGHBORHOOD) THE ORIGIN (THE STATE OF MICHOACAN); THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF DETERMINING THE NUMBER OF DEAD, INJURED AND TRAPPED; THE LACK OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS (NO NATIONAL PHONE CALLS OUTSIDE OF MEXICO CITY COULD BE MADE EITHER), AND THE

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19282 201807Z

EMERGENCY TEAMS AND DIFFICULTY OF CARRYING OUT RESCUE OPERATIONS.

2. THE OTHER FRONT-PAGE STORY WAS ON THE REPORT OF THE CABINET SECRETARIES AND THE MAYOR ON THE SITUATION AS MENTIONED IN LAST MEDIA SITREP. THE MAJOR STORY ON PAGE TWO CONCERNED A STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT DE LA MADRID WHILE TOURING THE CITY YESTERDAY THAT "THEMENT HAS ALL THE NECESSARY RESOURCES AND ELEMENTS FOR ATTENDING TO THE PROBLEM." (EARLY THIS MORNING WHILE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR GAVIN AND THE MEXICAN

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-

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AT THE AIRPORT, THE SUB-SECRETARY OF HEALTH TOLD THE IO THAT MEXICO HAD ALL THE MEDICINE AND EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO HANDLE THE DISASTER. THE ONLY THING NEEDED WAS LODGING FOR THE HOMELESS LAST NIGHT.)

-

3. THE REST OF THE STORIES WERE HUMAN INTEREST ON HEROISM, VOLUNTEERS, RECOMMENDATIONS ON EARTHQUAKES, THE SITUATION IN HOSPITALS, EFFORT TO RESTORE COMMUNICATIONS AND SOME HISTORY ON EARTHQUAKES IN MEXICO AND IN GENERAL. (DRAFTED:USIS:LJOHNSON) GAVIN

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19288 210942Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /001 W
-----107321 210945Z /21

O 201756Z SEP 85 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3776

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19288

FOR PAUL STORING/ARA/MEX

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PBTS, AEMR, MX, US

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF BRIDGES AND BORDER CROSSINGS

- MEETING

-

1. PER CONVERSATION BETWEEN A/POLCOUNS AN ROBERTA LJUS,
DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS, SRE, EMBASSY
WISHES TO CONFIRM CANCELLATION OF MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, ON INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES AND BORDER
CROSSINGS.

-

2. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A NEW DATE FOR THE MEETING
AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE CRISIS HAS PASSED. (DRAFTED:POL:
AMHARDY) GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19290 211417Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 EUR-00 SS-00 EB-08 IO-16
SSO-00 /025 W

-----113054 211519Z /43

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 19290

DECONTROLLED

PASS TO AMBASSADOR PETER H. DAILEY, INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (GAVIN, JOHN A.), MX
SUBJECT: TRAVEL TO WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL

EARTHQUAKE RELIEF REQUIRES THAT AMBASSADOR GAVIN REMAIN
IN MEXICO A FEW MORE DAYS. REVISED EUROPEAN ITINERARY
WILL BE SENT AS SOON AS AVAILABLE. GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19300 250403Z
ACTION OCS-06

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 SS-00 ARA-00 SSO-00 CA-02
AGR-01 /010 W

-----266115 250426Z /16
O 202016Z SEP 85 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3780

UNCLAS MEXICO 19300

RELEASED IN FULL

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

DEPT PLEASE PASS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USDA, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE - STATUS OF USDA PERSONNEL

1. POST HAS TALKED TO SCS AND THEY REPORT NO EMPLOYEE OR FAMILY INJURIES.
2. POST ALSO CONTACTED ASA, USWA AND USFGC OFFICES/MEXICO CITY, ALL IN OPERATION AND NO INJURIES TO STAFF AND FAMILIES REPORTED.
3. DIRECTOR DR. NOVY HAS TALKED TO SCREWORM OPERATION IN TUXTLA GUTIERREZ AND THEY REPORT NO DAMAGE OR INJURIES.

(DRAFTED BY DBYOUNG) GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19306 01 OF 02 202157Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
EB-08 DINT-05 DODE-00 MMO-01 IO-16 NSAE-00 SSO-00
SY-06 HA-08 INSE-00 PA-02 PER-03 CCO-00 HHS-06
INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-01 SAF-01 AGRE-01 CA-02 ANAE-00
FBO-06 OES-09 A-02 SYE-00 USIE-00 OC-02 SR-06
PLE-02 PRS-01 SLPD-01 /106 W

-----065660 202216Z /62

O 202114Z SEP 85 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3790

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 19306

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OSC/CCS/ARA/EMR

LAST PARA PLEASE PASS TO DR. PERSON, NEIS GOLDEN,
COLORADO TELEX 45509

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 19

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1.- ALL MAJOR MEXICO CITY DAILIES REPORT EXTENSIVELY
ON THE EARTHQUAKE THAT STRUCK MEXICO CITY EARLY
THURSDAY MORNING. THEY ALL REPRINT INFORMATION GIVEN
LAST NIGHT BY MEXICO CITY MAYOR, RAMON AGUIRRE, TO THE
EFFECT THAT MAJOR DAMAGE WAS IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA, THAT
250 BUILDINGS HAD COLLAPSED, THAT 100 OTHERS WERE IN
DANGER OF COLLAPSING, AND THAT APPROXIMATELY 1,000
OTHER BUILDINGS HAD EXPERIENCED SOME DAMAGE.

-

2.- THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO ORDERED YESTERDAY THAT TOP
PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO THE RESCUE OF PERSONS TRAPPED IN
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19306 01 OF 02 202157Z

THE DEBRIS. TELEVISION REPORTS INDICATE THIS MORNING
THAT THERE ARE PERSONS STILL ALIVE IN SOME OF THE
BUILDINGS. THE PRESIDENT ALSO ORDERED THAT GOVERNMENT
WORKERS WHOSE OFFICES ARE IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA DO NOT
SHOW FOR WORK TODAY. THE ORDER APPLIED TO ALL WORKERS
WITHIN THE DOWNTOWN AREA THAT HAS BEEN SECURED BY THE
POLICE AND THE ARMY SINCE YESTERDAY. THE PRESIDENT
ALSO ORDERED A THREE DAY NATIONAL MOURNING PERIOD
BANNED THE SALES OF LIQUOR FOR THREE DAYS (AS OF TODAY
-- FRIDAY -- UNTIL SUNDAY).

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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3. GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR CONFIRMED 373 DEATHS AND MOST MEDIA SOURCES REPORT 700 DEAD AND ABOUT 3,000 HOMELESS.
-

4. ALL NEWSPAPERS HIGHLIGHT MEXICO CITY MAYOR'S STATEMENT THAT 50,000 WORKERS ARE INVOLVED IN THE RESCUE OPERATIONS. HE ALSO SAID THAT THERE ARE AROUND 5,000 INJURED AND 1,000 PERSONS TRAPPED IN THE COLLAPSED BUILDINGS. HE DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO MIGHT BE DEAD. THE MAYOR ALSO SAID THAT THERE ARE SUFFICIENT FOOD SUPPLIES, AND THAT PEMEX INFORMED THAT ALL ITS INSTALLATIONS AND PIPELINES ARE FINE. THEREFORE, THE MAYOR SAID, THERE IS NO REASON FOR ANY FOOD OR GAS PANIC BUYING. HE ALSO SAID THAT A SPECIAL TEAM OF INSPECTORS WILL SEE THAT NONE VIOLATES OFFICIAL PRICES OF BASIC COMMODITIES.

5. DEFENSE SECRETARY, GEN. ANGEL AREVALO SAID THAT THE ARMY PUT INTO EFFECT THE DN-3 NATIONAL EMERGENCY PLAN -- WHICH IS WORKING ALRIGHT. HE INFORMED THAT 32 PERSONS WERE KILLED IN THE STATE OF MICHOACAN, THAT ONE PERSON WAS KILLED IN THE RESORT AREA OF IXTAPA IN THE STATE OF GUERRERO. HE ADDED THAT NO MAJOR DAMAGE WAS
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REPORTED IN ACAPULCO, AND THAT FIVE HOTELS HAD BEEN EVACUATED IN IXTAPA -- BUT NONE HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY INJURED IN EITHER OF THE TWO RESORT LOCATIONS. HE ALSO REPORTED THAT THE EARTHQUAKE CAUSED DAMAGES IN THE STATES OF COLIMA, GUERRERO, JALISCO, MICHOACAN, MORELOS AND PART OF VERACRUZ.

6. EL UNIVERSAL IS THE ONLY NEWSPAPER TO PUT THE DEATH TOLL TO 3,000 PERSONS, AND ALSO SAID THAT AT LEAST 50,000 FAMILIES ARE HOMELESS. (EARLY TODAY -- FRIDAY --, WHILE AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR GAVIN AND THE MEXICAN SECRETARY OF HEALTH AT THE AIRPORT, THE UNDER SECRETARY OF HEALTH TOLD THE IO THAT MEXICO HAD ALL THE MEDICINE AND EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO HANDLE THE DISASTER. THE ONLY THING NEEDED WAS LODGING FOR THE HOMELESS LAST NIGHT.)
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7. UNOMASUNO REPORTS ON THE OFFER MADE TO MEXICO'S FOREIGN SECRETARY, BERNARDO SEPULVEDA BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE U.S. EMBASSY HERE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO. THE SAME NEWSPAPER ALSO REPORTS ON THE SYMPATHY MESSAGES SENT BY UN SECRETARY GENERAL, THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, THE PRESIDENTS OF NICARAGUA, VENEZUELA, PERU, COLOMBIA, AND ECUADOR, AS WELL AS BY THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF CUBA AND SPAIN. IT ALSO REPORTS THAT CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR, GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN SAID IN LOS ANGELES THAT HE WILL SEND TWO

PARAMEDIC UNITS WITH 120 PARAMEDICS EACH, AS WELL AS TENTS, FOOD AND OTHER ITEMS TO HELP THE HOMELESS.

8.- ALL THE MEDIA STRESSES THE CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE AND CONSTERNATION CAUSED BY THE EARTHQUAKE. THEY ALSO EMPHASIZE THE HEROIC WORK OF MEMBERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, THE POLICE, THE ARMY AND A NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS. THE MEDIA ALSO HIGHLIGHTS THE EFFORTS TO

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NOTE BY OC/T: LAST PARA. NOT PASSED DR. PERSON.

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19306 02 OF 02 202149Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
EB-08 DINT-05 DODE-00 MMO-01 IO-16 NSAE-00 SSO-00
SY-06 HA-08 INSE-00 PA-02 PER-03 CCO-00 HHS-06
INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-01 SAF-01 CA-02 ANAE-00 FBO-06
AGR-01 OES-09 A-02 SYE-00 USIE-00 OC-02 SR-06
PLE-02 PRS-01 SLPD-01 /106 W

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O 202114Z SEP 85 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3791

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 MEXICO 19306

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OSC/CCS/ARA/EMR

LAST PARA PLEASE PASS TO DR. PERSON, NEIS GOLDEN,
COLORADO TELEX 45509

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 19

RESTORE POWER, WATER AND TELEPHONE SERVICES THROUGHOUT
THE CITY.

9.- USIS CONTACTED THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND TRANSPORTATION AND WAS TOLD THAT NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPHIC SERVICE HAS RESUMED.
NEVERTHELESS, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE
SERVICE IS STILL OUT.

10. THE SCIENCE OFFICE HAS RECEIVED ANOTHER UPDATE
FROM THE SEISMIC CENTER AT UNAM ON THE MAGNITUDE AND
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19306 02 OF 02 202149Z

LOCATION OF THE EARTHQUAKE. THE FOLLOWING IS THEIR
LATEST INFORMATION:

T 131748.5
DEPTH 33 KM
LATITUDE 17.57N
LONGITUDE 102.44W
IIC IP 131844.0
TAC IP 131846.0
IIM IP 131842.5

III IP 131851.0

III IP 131834.0

THE EPICENTER WAS LOCATED ABOUT 50 KM FROM THE GUERRERO-MICHOACAN COAST. THE MAGNITUDE REGISTERED 7.8 ON THE RICHTER SCALE AND THE INTENSITY 8 ON THE MERCALLI SCALE IN MEXICO CITY. AS OF 0800 LOCAL TIME, TWENTY AFTERSHOCKS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED, THE STRONGEST ONE MEASURED 4.5 ON THE RICHTER SCALE AND OCCURRED AT LOCAL TIME ON SEPTEMBER 19. THE SEISMIC CENTER ESTIMATES THAT THE FOLLOWING AREAS WERE THE HARDEST HIT: THE FEDERAL DISTRICT AND THE STATES OF GUERRERO, MICHOACAN, MEXICO, OAXACA, AND JALISCO. THE CENTER HAS DISPATCHED A TEAM OF SCIENTISTS TO LAZARO CARDENAS WITH EQUIPMENT TO DO MONITORING OF ANY FURTHER SEISMIC ACTIVITY. THEY CLAIM THERE IS NO SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE THAT ANOTHER MAJOR EARTHQUAKE WILL OCCUR IN THE NEAR FUTURE. GAVIN

NOTE BY OC/T: LAST PARA. NOT PASSED DR. PERSON.

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19315 220628Z
ACTION OCS-06

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
EB-08 DODE-00 H-01 IO-16 NSCE-00 ARA-00 NSAE-00
COME-00 SSO-00 HA-08 L-03 PM-10 PA-02 OMB-01
INM-07 HHS-06 INRE-00 BIB-01 FDRE-01 CA-02 ANAE-00
FCC-02 USIE-00 SP-02 OC-02 SR-06 SNP-01 PRS-01
TCIP-05 SLPD-01 SPD-01 /104 W

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O 202227Z SEP 85 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3801

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19315

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 22 - MEXICO EARTHQUAKE

1. UNDERSECRETARY GRIMM OF THE SECRETARIAT OF TOURISM GAVE DCM THIS MORNING FOLLOWING DATA REGARDING CASUALTIES AND DAMAGE TO HOTELS IN MEXICO CITY EARTHQUAKE. ACCORDING TO GRIMM 11 HOTELS WERE DAMAGED AND FIVE WERE COMPLETELY DESTROYED, THE LARGEST OF WHICH WAS THE HOTEL REGIS WITH 337 ROOMS. HE SAID THEY COULD HAVE AS MANY AS 1,000 DEATHS, 99 PER CENT OF WHOM ARE MEXICANS. HE SAID FOUR MAJOR HOTELS HAVE BEEN EVACUATED, WHICH ARE THE CROWN PLAZA, THE HOTEL PRESIDENTE (IN THE ZONA ROSA), THE HOTEL DEL PRADO, AND THE ALAMEDA HOTEL, ALTHOUGH HE COMMENTED THAT THEIR STRUCTURES MAY BE SOUND BUT THAT THE SUPERFICIAL OR "COSMETIC" DAMAGE TO ALL FOUR OF THESE HOTELS IS "TERRIBLE." HE ADDED THAT A GRAND TOTAL OF 1500 HOTEL ROOMS IN MEXICO CITY ARE OUT OF SERVICE AS A RESULT OF

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19315 220628Z

THE QUAKE, ONE HALF OF WHICH WERE DESTROYED AND THE OTHER HALF OF WHICH WERE EVACUATED, BUT ADDED THAT SUFFICIENT HOTEL ROOMS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR ALL CLASSES OF TOURISTS. HE ALSO PRAISED THE "GOOD TO OUTSTANDING QUALITIES" OF PERSONNEL WHO WORK IN MEXICO HOTELS. LASTLY, HE ESTIMATED THAT "SPOTTY" INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE SERVICE WOULD BE RESTORED BY NEXT WEEK.

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2. FOLLOWING INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED ON THE STATUS

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

OF THE PREMISES AND STAFF OF THE MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE: THE OFFICE OF THE AG AND HIS STAFF, LOCATED AT LAZARO CARDENAS #9, RECEIVED STRUCTURAL DAMAGE AND IS CONSIDERED DANGEROUS TO OCCUPANTS. OF THE THREE TOWER COMPLEX AT PINO SUAREZ, TWO OF THE 22-STORY TOWERS COLLAPSED, ONE OF WHICH WAS THE OFFICE OF THE ERADICATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR, ENRIQUE ARENAL, AND HEADQUARTERS FOR THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN. BOTH THE AG'S STAFF, ITS OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE PINO SUAREZ OFFICES HAVE BEEN MOVED TO THE TRAINING FACILITIES IN TLALPAN. (INSTITUTE NACIONAL DE CIENCIAS PENALES, TEL. 573-74-30.) THERE WERE NO DAMAGES AT THE AG'S HANGER FACILITIES LOCATED AT THE AIRPORT. (DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS ABOVE INFO TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.)

FOREIGN MINISTRY

3. POLOFF DELIVERED SECRETARY SHULTZ' MESSAGE (STATE 289824) TO FOREIGN MINISTER SEPULVEDA'S OFFICE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 20. SEPULVEDA HAD BEEN OPERATING OUT OF TEMPORARY QUARTERS IN THE ARCHIVES BUILDING ADJACENT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. HIS STAFF WAS IN THE PROCESS OF MOVING

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BACK INTO HIS OFFICES ON THE 19TH FLOOR. ELEVATORS ARE NOT YET FUNCTIONING. AT LEAST ONE PHONE LINE HAS BEEN RE-ESTABLISHED IN HIS OFFICE. IN REACHING THE 19TH FLOOR VIA STAIRWAY POLOFF WAS ABLE TO SURVEY DAMAGE TO THE BUILDING. ON THE LOWER LEVELS, LARGE CHUNKS OF PLASTER HAD FALLEN. THOUGH LESS FALLEN PLASTER WAS EVIDENT ON THE UPPER FLOORS, BOOKS AND PICTURES HAD ALSO FALLEN. SEPULVEDA'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT, LIC. MIGNON, CONFIRMED THAT ALL STAFF WOULD BE RETURNING TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23. THOUGH CLEAN-UP CREWS WERE AT WORK ON THE 19TH FLOOR, THEY WERE IN LITTLECE ELSEWHERE AND WE SUSPECT SUCH WILL BE LEFT UP TO THE STAFF THEMSELVES.

3. FROM THE VANTAGE POINT OF THE 19TH FLOOR, POLOFF OBSERVED SMOKE STILL COMING FROM TWO LOCATIONS, ONE OF WHICH WAS THE HOTEL REGIS. ALSO VISIBLE WAS A PARTIALLY COLLAPSED CHURCH NEAR THE HOTEL AND A DAMAGED 7-STORY PARKING STRUCTURE. RETURNING TO THE EMBASSY VIA REFORMA, POLOFF SAW FIVE PARTIALLY COLLAPSED BUILDINGS. WORKCREWS WERE PRESENT AT SOME SITES, WITH SOME HEAVY CRANES. IN THE AREA OF WORST DAMAGE ALONG REFORMA, A SOUP LINE HAD BEEN SET UP ALONG THE MEDIAN STRIP. IN A SMALL GREENSPACE IN THE AREA, 3 TENTS MADE OF PLASTIC SHEETING HAD BEEN SET UP AS TEMPORARY SHELTERS FOR WHAT APPEARED TO BE A FEW FAMILIES. THOUGH THERE WERE A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE AREA, MOST APPEARED TO BE THERE TO OBSERVE THE DRAMATIC

PULLING DOWN OF THE MOST BADLY DAMAGED BUILDINGS. (DRAFTED:
LAB:JGWYNN; POL:MDAVISON; DEA:EAHEATH) GAVIN

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19316 121903Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 EB-08
DODE-00 IO-16 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-08 LAB-04
PM-10 PA-02 DOTE-00 SIL-01 HHS-06 INRE-00 OCS-06
FDRE-00 CA-02 FAA-00 USIE-00 SP-02 SR-06 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3802

UNCLAS MEXICO 19316

RELEASED IN FULL

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCC/ARA/EMR

DEPARTMENT PASS TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, ELAB, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 23, MEXICO EARTHQUAKE

1. WHILE ESTIMATES OF DEAD, INJURED, MISSING, AND BUILDINGS WHICH COLLAPSED DURING YESTERDAY'S EARTHQUAKE VARY, GOVERNMENT MEDIA THIS MORNING CITED A FIGURE OF AT LEAST 700 DEAD, 5,000 INJURED, 1,000 STILL MISSING, AND 256 BUILDINGS IN THE CITY WHICH HAVE COLLAPSED.

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2. ALL MEDIA AND SOURCES CITE YESTERDAY'S QUAKE AS THE WORST EARTHQUAKE AND DISASTER SUFFERED IN MEXICO'S HISTORY.

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3. PROMINENT MEDIA COVERAGE WAS ALSO GIVEN TO PRESIDENT DE LA MADRID'S TRAVELS AROUND THE CITY YESTERDAY, SUCH AS

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19316 121903Z

IN TLATELOLCO WHERE HE VISITED THE SITE OF THE NUEVO LEON APARTMENT COMPLEX WHICH COMPLETELY COLLAPSED AND WHERE AT LEAST 40 PERSONS WERE KILLED.

-

4. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTED CASES OF LOOTING. QUITE TO THE CONTRARY, ARMY AND NAVY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN UTILIZED EXTENSIVELY THROUGH THE CITY TO DETER ANY LOOTING, AND HAVE BEEN GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE IN THE PRESS, TV, AND RADIO.

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

5. PEMEX HAS AFFIRMED THAT NONE OF ITS INSTALLATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY SUFFERED ANY DAMAGE IN THE EARTHQUAKE AND THAT THE SALE OF GASOLINE WILL CONTINUE REGULAR BASIS.

6. THE LABOR MINISTRY HAD ONE OF ITS MAIN BUILDINGS IN MEXICO CITY, LOCATED ON VERTIZ STREET, TOTALLY COLLAPSE IN THE EARTHQUAKE. SUBSECRETARY OF LABOR LUZOYA THALMANN TOLD LABCOUNS A NUMBER OF WORKERS ARE STILL TRAPPED IN THE REMAINS OF THE BUILDING AND ARE PRESUMED DEAD. HE ADDED THAT FORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE WORKERS IN THE COLLAPSED LABOR SECRETARIAT'S BUILDING DO NOT NORMALLY REPORT TO WORK UNTIL AFTER 8:00 A.M. AND SO WERE NOT IN THE BUILDING AT THE TIME. HE STATED THAT THOSE PERSONS TRAPPED IN THE RUBBLE (AND PRESUMABLY DEAD) ARE FROM THE LABOR SECRETARIAT'S PRINTING STAFF AND ARRIVE VERY EARLY IN THE MORNING AND WERE THUS THERE WHEN THE EARTHQUAKE OCCURRED AT 7:19 A.M. LOZOYA SAID NOBODY KNOWS EXACTLY HOW MANY PRINT SHOP WORKERS MIGHT HAVE BEEN ON HAND WHEN THE BUILDING COLLAPSED. HE ADDED THAT THE SEPARATE BUILDING ON ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY WHERE HE, LABOR SECRETARY FARELL, AND SUBSECRETARY ZERTUCHE WORK, HOWEVER, WAS NOT DAMAGED IN THE QUAKE, INASMUCH AS

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PAGE 03 MEXICO 19316 121903Z

IT IS A NEW CONCRETE STRUCTURE BUILT ON SOLID VOLCANIC STONE IN THE PEDREGAL AREA OF THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS.

7. THE AIRPORT IS IN OPERATION, WITH MANY DELAYS AND CANCELLATIONS, HOWEVER. BECAUSE THE AVIATION FUEL AT THE AIRPORT WAS REPORTEDLY CONTAMINATED AS A CONSEQUENCE OF DAMAGE FROM THE EARTHQUAKE, ALL INCOMING FLIGHTS ARE BEING ASKED TO CARRY ENOUGH AVIATION FUEL ON BOARD SO THAT THEY CAN LEAVE MEXICO AND PROCEED ON TO THEIR NEXT DESTINATION WITHOUT REFUELING IN MEXICO CITY.
(DRAFTED:JGWYNN) GAVIN

NOTE BY OC/T: POSSIBLE DUPE MSG.

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19318 222210Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 SS-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 INRE-00
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UNCLAS MEXICO 19318

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK OFFICE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, MX, AMGT, USIA, FBO

SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE: REQUEST FROM INDIAN EMBASSY,
MEXICO CITY

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE EMBASSY OF
INDIA, AS REQUESTED THE EMBASSY OF INDIA HERE: QUOTE

PLEASE INFORM THE MINISTRY THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE
EMBASSY AND THEIR FAMILIES AND INDIAN NATIONALS IN MEXICO
CITY ARE SAFE. (MADHU BHADURI, COUNSELLOR). UNQUOTE
GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 01 STATE 289705
ORIGIN ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 SS-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY: ARA/MEX/WG:NMASON:LMG
APPROVED BY: S/S-O:JANDRES
WHOUSE:WMARTIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO NIACT IMMEDIATE 6002
INFO JCS WASHDC//J-3/4/5// IMMEDIATE 8487
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 289705

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, OPDC, MX
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN TO PRESIDENT
DE LA MADRID

1. THE DCM IS REQUESTED TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE
FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN TO PRESIDENT DE LA MADRID AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE"

BEGIN TEXT. DEAR MIGUEL:

I WAS STUNNED AND SADDENED TO LEARN OF THE SERIOUS
EARTHQUAKE WHICH STRUCK MEXICO EARLIER TODAY. I WANT TO
OFFER MY CONDOLENCES TO YOU AND TO THE PEOPLE OF MEXICO
IN THIS TIME OF TRAGEDY. WE STAND READY TO OFFER
WHATEVER ASSISTANCE WE CAN RENDER IN YOUR EFFORTS TO COPE
WITH THE EARTHQUAKE'S DESTRUCTION, AND AMBASSADOR GAVIN
IS RETURNING IMMEDIATELY TO MEXICO CITY TO BE OF
ASSISTANCE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 289705

I TRUST THAT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE SAFE AND WELL. REST
ASSURED THAT OUR PRAYERS WILL BE WITH YOU AND THE MEXICAN
PEOPLE IN THIS DIFFICULT TIME. SINCERELY, RON. END TEXT.

2. NO SIGNED ORIGINAL WILL FOLLOW. WHITE HOUSE DOES NOT
PLAN TO RELEASE TEXT OF MESSAGE BUT HAS NO OBJECTION
SHOULD MEXICAN GOVERNMENT WISH TO DO SO.

3. MINIMIZED CONSIDERED. SHULTZ

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 289824
ORIGIN ARA-00

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/MEX:NMASON
APPROVED BY: S :THE SECRETARY
RA:ELLIOTT ABRAMS ARA:JMICHEL
S/S:BMCKINLEY S/S-O:JANDRES
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 289824

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS:PREL, OPDC, PGOV, MX
SUBJECT: SECRETARY SHULTZ LETTER TO SECRETARY SEPULVEDA

-- EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE
FROM SECRETARY SHULTZ TO SECRETARY SEPULVEDA.

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR BERNARDO,

IT WAS WITH THE GREATEST SORROW THAT I LEARNED OF THE
EARTHQUAKE IN MEXICO ON SEPTEMBER 19, AND ON BEHALF OF
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WISH TO EXTEND MY CONDOLENCES TO YOU
AND THE PEOPLE OF MEXICO.

PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT WE STAND READY TO RENDER ANY
ASSISTANCE YOU MAY REQUIRE TO EASE THE BURDEN OF THOSE
WHO HAVE SUFFERED IN THIS TRAGEDY.
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PAGE 02 STATE 289824

SINCERELY,

GEORGE P. SHULTZ SHULTZ

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NN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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PAGE 01 STATE 289882
ORIGIN ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 EUR-00 SSO-00 /001 R

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APPROVED BY: ARA/MEX:NMASON
S/S-O:JANDRES
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
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O 200352Z SEP 85 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 289882

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MX
SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE

1. FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM SWEDISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SWEDISH EMBASSY MEXICO
CITY.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

WOULD APPRECIATE STATUS REPORT OF SWEDISH PERSONNEL
IN MEXICO CITY. ARE YOU ALRIGHT? END TEXT.

3. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. SHULTZ

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 STATE 289885
ORIGIN ARA-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 289885

FOLLOWING REPEAT SENT ACTION SECSTATE 20 SEP QUOTE

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 15610

FOR S/S-0

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, IV
SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE: WELFARE OF IVORIAN AMBASSADOR
AND STAFF

1. ACTION REQUESTED MESSAGE.

2. CHARGE WAS PHONED AT HOME AT 2330 HOURS (ABIDJAN TIME)
ON SEPTEMBER 19 BY IVORIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMEON AKE WHO
MADE DIRECT REQUEST FOR OUR ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING WHETHER
IVORIAN AMBASSADOR JEAN KACOU AND HIS STAFF IN MEXICO CITY ARE
SAFE AFTER REPORTED EARTHQUAKE.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD BEEN TRYING TO REACH
MEXICO CITY BY PHONE WITHOUT SUCCESS, AND WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL
FOR OUR ASSISTANCE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 289885

4. ACTION REQUESTED: ANY INFORMATION DEPT CAN PROVIDE WHICH WE
CAN PASS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AT OPENING OF BUISNESS (ABIDJAN
TIME) ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20. MANY THANKS. CUNDIFF
UNQUOTE SHULTZ

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 STATE 289921
ORIGIN ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 NEA-07 SSO-00 /008 R

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S/S-O:RPACE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 289921

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MX
SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE

1. FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM ISRAELI EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR ISRAELI AMBASSADOR MEXICO CITY.
2. BEGIN TEXT: FOR AMBASSADOR ARAD FROM RAN KURIEL.
MR. SHALEB ISRAELI BOND REPRESENTATIVE IN BUENOS AIRES
WAS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN MEXICO CITY SEPTEMBER 19.
FAMILY VERY CONCERNED. PLEASE CONFIRM WELFARE AND
WHEREABOUTS. END TEXT.
3. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. SHULTZ

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 STATE 289945
ORIGIN ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00
OPR-01 AF-00 CIAE-00 EB-08 DODE-00 H-01 MMO-01
IO-16 NEA-07 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-08 L-03
PM-10 EAP-00 AIT-02 PA-02 PER-03 CCO-00 OMB-01
HHS-06 INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-01 CA-02 SIG-03 FBOE-00
USIE-00 SP-02 OC-02 SR-06 SNP-01 PRS-01 SLPD-01
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APPROVED BY: S/S-O:RSPACE
ARA/ECP:AOSICK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
INFO JCS WASHDC//J-3/4/5 IMMEDIATE 8507
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MONTERREY IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MAZATLAN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MATAMOROS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL TIJUANA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ IMMEDIATE
ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 289945

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: CASC, SOCI, EAID, AMGT, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE WORKING GROUP: SITREP NO. 1,
SITUATION IN MEXICO AS OF 1530 EDT SEPTEMBER 19, 1985

1. CENTRAL MEXICO WAS STRUCK BY A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE AT
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PAGE 02 STATE 289945

APPROXIMATELY 10:00 EDT SEPTEMBER 19. GOLDEN COLORADO
EARTHQUAKE CENTER REPORTS MAGNITUDE OF 7.8 ON THE RICHTER
SCALE, WITH AN EPICENTER IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN ABOUT 250
MILES SW OF MEXICO CITY. PRESIDENT DE LA MADRID HAS GONE
ON RADIO ASKING FOR CALM, AND THE MEXICAN SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE HAS DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND SET
MEXICO'S DISASTER PLAN INTO EFFECT.

2. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH
EMBASSY MEXICO, WHICH REPORTS NO DAMAGE TO THE EMBASSY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

BUILDING, AND AS OF 1530 NO KNOWN INJURIES TO PERSONNEL, NOR TO US CITIZENS IN MEXICO. PHONE CONTACT HAS NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED. MAJOR PUBLIC SERVICES IN MEXICO CITY ARE FUNCTIONING, BUT THERE ARE EXTENSIVE GAS LEAKS. MEXICO CITY'S AIRPORT IS CLOSED. CONSULATES GUADALAJARA, HERMOSILLO, MONTERREY ALL REPORT NO DAMAGE. NO WORD HAS YET BEEN RECEIVED FROM ACAPULCO. SHULTZ

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PAGE 01 STATE 289946
ORIGIN ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00
AF-00 CIAE-00 EB-08 H-01 MMO-01 IO-16 NEA-07
NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-08 L-03 PM-10 EAP-00
AIT-02 PA-02 OMB-01 HHS-06 INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-01
CA-02 SIG-03 ANAE-00 USIE-00 SP-02 SR-06 SNP-01
PRS-01 SPD-01 /099 R

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APPROVED BY: S/S-O:RPACE
ARA/ECP:AOSLICK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
INFO JCS WASHDC//J3/4/5 IMMEDIATE 8508
USCINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MONTERREY IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MAZATLAN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MATAMOROS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL TIJUANA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ IMMEDIATE
ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 289946

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: CASC, SOCI, EAID, AMGT, MX
SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE WORKING GROUP: SITREP NO. 2,
SITUATION IN MEXICO AS OF 1700 EDT SEPTEMBER 19, 1985

1. INFORMATION FROM EMBASSY MEXICO INDICATES HEAVY
EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE IN MEXICO CITY. NO FIRM ESTIMATES ARE
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PAGE 02 STATE 289946

AVAILABLE AS TO NUMBER OF CASUALTIES. EMBASSY REPORTS AS
OF 1700 NO KNOWN US CITIZEN CASUALTIES. PRESIDENT DE LA
MADRID HAS TOURED DAMAGED AREAS, AND APPEALED FOR PEOPLE
TO REMAIN CALM AND INDOORS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. THE
MEXICAN ARMY AND POLICE ARE PATROLLING STREETS OF DAMAGED
AREAS TO PREVENT LOOTING.

2. AMBASSADOR GAVIN IS FLYING FROM NEW YORK TO MEXICO
THIS EVENING.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

3. MEXICO CITY CONTINUES TO BE THE MAIN AREA OF KNOWN EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE. OUTLYING AREAS OF CENTRAL MEXICO MAY HAVE SUFFERED AS WELL, BUT NO IION IS AVAILABLE FROM THESE AREAS AT THIS TIME. GUADALAJARA, MONTERREY AND NORTHERN MEXICO REPORT NO DAMAGE. THE MEXICAN ARMY ACAPULCO ZONE COMMANDER HAS REPORTED THAT DAMAGE IN

ACAPULCO WAS LIGHT.

4. THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS RECEIVING VERY LARGE NUMBER OF TELEPHONE INQUIRIES FROM FRIENDS AND RELATIVES OF US CITIZENS IN MEXICO. ALL SUCH INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE FOLLOWING WORKING GROUP NUMBER: 202-653-7959. PRESS INTEREST IN THE DISASTER APPEARS SUBSTANTIAL. PRESS INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO 202-632-2492. SHULTZ

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PAGE 01 STATE 289949
ORIGIN ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00
AF-00 CIAE-00 EB-08 H-01 MMO-01 IO-16 NEA-07
NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-08 L-03 PM-10 EAP-00
AIT-02 PA-02 OMB-01 HHS-06 INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-01
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
INFO JCS WASHDC//J-3/4/5 IMMEDIATE 8509
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MONTERREY IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MAZATLAN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MATAMOROS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL TIJUANA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ IMMEDIATE
ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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UNCLAS STATE 289949

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: CASC, SOCI, EAID, AMGT, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE WORKING GROUP: SITREP NO. 3,
SITUATION IN MEXICO AS OF 0500 EDT SEPTEMBER 20, 1985

1. SECRETARY AND MRS. SHULTZ CAME TO THE TASK FORCE LATE
SEPTEMBER 19 FOR A REPORT ON LATEST EVENTS IN MEXICO.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY ABRAMS BRIEFED THEM ON CONTINGENCY
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PAGE 02 STATE 289949

PLANS SHOULD THE GOM ASK FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

2. IN A CABLE TO PRESIDENT DE LA MADRID, PRESIDENT
REAGAN EXPRESSED HIMSELF AS "STUNNED AND SADDENED" BY THE
EARTHQUAKE, AND OFFERED HIS CONDOLENCES TO DE LA MADRID
AND THE MEXICAN PEOPLE. THE SECRETARY EARLIER SENT A
MESSAGE TO FOREIGN SECRETARY SEPULVEDA AND OFFERED "ANY
ASSISTANCE YOU MAY REQUIRE TO EASE THE BURDEN OF THOSE
WHO HAVE SUFFERED..."

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

3. U.S. CITIZENS, INCLUDING SOME NYC FIREMEN, HAVE BEEN CALLING THE TASK FORCE TO OFFER SERVICES. WE ARE KEEPING A LIST OF SUCH OFFERS, BUT ARE NOTING TO THE CALLERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO HAS NOT ASKED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE. WE ARE REFERRING OFFERS OF

PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS TO DR. CLAUDE DE VILLE, PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION, AT (202) 861-4325.

4. AT&T HAS BEEN WORKING TO REESTABLISH A FEW INTERNATIONAL CIRCUITS. WITH POSSIBLY IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF TELEFONOS DE MEXICO (TDM), AT&T IS ASSISTING IN EFFORTS TO REACTIVATE CONNECTIONS AT TDM'S OLD CENTRAL OFFICE.

5. AMBASSADOR GAVIN RETURNED BY AIR TO MEXICO CITY FROM NEW YORK IN THE EARLY HOURS OF SEPTEMBER 20.

6. EMBASSY MEXICO REPORTS THAT THEY WILL REVIEW THE SITUATION SEPT. 20 BEFORE ISSUING ANY TRAVEL ADVISORY. EMBASSY MEXICO WAS PUT ON MINIMIZE LATE ON SEPT. 19.

7. CA HAS RELAYED OVER 250 MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM UNCLASSIFIED

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EMBASSY MEXICO FOR FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE US FROM US CITIZEN RELATIVES IN MEXICO. THOUSANDS OF CALLS CONTINUE TO POUR IN FROM CONCERNED RELATIVES. SHULTZ

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PAGE 01 STATE 289952
ORIGIN ARA-00

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING MEXICO 19241 DTG SEP 20, SENT ACTION
STATE BEING REPEATED TO YOU FOR ACTION:
QUOTE UNCLAS MEXICO 19241

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK OFFICE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS:AEMR, EAID, MX, AMGT, USIA, FBO

SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTQUAKE: REQUEST FROM UNITED NATIONS
HEADQUARTERS

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK
TELEX NUMBERS 023-177642 OR 023-0126171 OR 023-177742
OR IF CANNOT BE REACHED BY TELEX VIA USA MISSION TO
UNITED NATIONS, FIRST AVENUE, N. Y.

ECMEX 278-09 IMMEDIATE/ ALICE WEIL/ CHARLES WRIGHT INFO
GAMBERINI ECLAC/SANTIAGO RE SUFFERED EARTHQUAKE MEXICO
CITY TODAY HEREBY REPORTING THAT SO FAR NO CASUALTIES
WERE REPORTED BY UNATIONS STAFF IN MEXICO CITY. MINOR
INTERIOR PROPERTY DAMAGE TO OFFICES IN MAZARYK 29
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PAGE 02 STATE 289952

BUILDING REPORTED. STAFF SENT HOME UNTIL BUILDING
DECLARED SAFE BY BUILDING'S OWNER APPOINTED EXPERT. LD
TELEPHONE AND TELEX LINKS ARE INOPERATIVE AND THIS
MESSAGE TRANSMITTED THROUGH GOOD OFFICES USA EMBASSY
MEXICO CITY. PLEASE RETRANSMIT THIS TELEX TO GAMBERINI
ECLAC/SANTIAGO. (WORTEL-ECLAC/MEXICO). BUSBY
UNQUOTE SHULTZ

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 STATE 290052
ORIGIN OCS-06

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APPROVED BY: ARA/MEX:PSHANKLE
S/S-O: GMTALCOTT

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 290052

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, CASC, MX
SUBJECT: MEXICO CITY EARTHQUAKE AMCIT REPORTS

1. THE LISTS OF AMCITS GREATLY APPRECIATED. EMBASSY REPORTS ARE ONLY RELIABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE.
2. FIRST HAND REPORTS FROM AMCITS RETURNING FROM IXTAPA INDICATE POSSIBLY HEAVY DAMAGE WHICH CONFLICTS WITH OTHER AVAILABLE REPORTS. WHATEVER CONFIRMATION EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE WOULD BE APPRECIATED. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ON THE UNIVERSITY AREA THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE. SHULTZ

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 STATE 290133
ORIGIN ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
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PM-10 PA-02 OMB-01 HHS-06 INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-00
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DRAFTED BY: MEXICAN WORKING GROUP:DFROGUS:IMJ

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:GMTALCOTT

MWTG:PSHANKLE

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OPDC, MX

SUBJECT: COPY OF RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SENATE

1. SENATE MAJORITY LEADER DOLE HAS REQUESTED THAT THE
FOLLOWING MESSAGE BE TRANSMITTED TO PRESIDENT MIGUEL DE
LA MADRID.

2. PRESIDENT MIGUEL DE LA MADRID

I AM TRANSMITTING A COPY OF THE RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE
SENATE WITHIN HOURS OF HEARING NEWS OF THE EARTHQUAKE.
OUR PRAYERS AND FULL SUPPORT ARE WITH YOU AND THE PEOPLE
OF MEXICO IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS.

ROBERT J. DOLE, MAJORITY LEADER, U.S. SENATE

BEGIN TEXT:

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PAGE 02 STATE 290133

S.CON. RES. 67

WHEREAS AN EARTHQUAKE OF DISASTROUS PROPORTIONS HAS
LEVELED PARTS OF MEXICO CITY TODAY:

WHEREAS SIGNIFICANT AND IRREPARABLE DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE

TO "THE OLD CITY", REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

WHEREAS BETWEEN A THIRD AND A HALF OF ALL STRUCTURES HAVE
REPORTEDLY BEEN DESTROYED;

WHEREAS MILLIONS OF CITIZENS OF MEXICO CITY MAY NOW BE
HOMELESS AND THOUSANDS MAY BE KILLED OR INJURED; AND

WHEREAS THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES SHARE
LONG-STANDING BONDS OF HISTORY AND CULTURE WITH THE
PEOPLE OF MEXICO AND, AS NEIGHBORS, HAVE DEEP CONCERN FOR
THE WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE OF MEXICO; THEREFORE BE IT

(BEGIN UNDL) RESOLVED, (END UNDL) THAT IT IS THE SENSE OFNATE THAT THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
SHOULD MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO AND TO
THE PEOPLE OF MEXICO CITY-ON AN EMERGENCY
BASIS-HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF REQUIRED TO HELP
DEAL WITH THIS TRAGEDY. SHULTZ

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, CASC, MX
SUBJECT: MEXICO CITY EARTHQUAKE - AMCIT REPORTS

1. THE LISTS OF AMCITS GREATLY APPRECIATED. EMBASSY
REPORTS ARE ONLY RELIABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION
AVAILABLE.

2. FIRST HAND REPORTS FROM AMCITS RETURNING FROM IXTAPA
INDICATE POSSIBLY HEAVY DAMAGE WHICH CONFLICTS WITH OTHER
AVAILABLE REPORTS. WHATEVER CONFIRMATION EMBASSY CAN
PROVIDE WOULD BE APPRECIATED. SHULTZ

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 290342

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MX, AR
SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE

1. FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM ARGENTINE EMBASSY.
2. BEGIN TEXT: ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
WISHES TO HAVE INFORMATION ON THE WELFARE OF THEIR
EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN MEXICO. END TEXT.
3. IF POST IS ABLE, DEPARTMENT REQUESTS EMBASSY
ASSISTANCE IN ASCERTAINING CONDITION OF ARGENTINE EMBASSY
AND PERSONNEL.
4. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. SHULTZ

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 290330

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AMGT, CASC, EAID, MX, SOCI

SUBJECT: MEXICO WORKING GROUP: SITREP NO.,4,,
SITUATION IN MEXICO AS OF 1030 EDT SEPTEMBER 20, 1985

1. FULL EXTENT OF MEXICO EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE STILL NOT KNOWN TWENTY FOUR HOURS AFTER EARTHQUAKE. TELEPHONE LINKS WITH MEXICO CONTINUE DISRUPTED AND IT IS NOT KNOWN WHEN NORMAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEXICO WILL BE REESTABLISHED. RADIO AND TELEGRAPH CONTINUE AS THE MAIN MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEXICO. NEARLY ALL MEXICAN ROADS ARE IN GOOD SHAPE.
2. EMBASSY MEXICO CONTINUES TO REPORT NO KNOWN AMERICAN CITIZEN DEATHS OR INJURIES. EMBASSY MEXICO HAS CABLED LISTS OF AMERICANS WHO HAVE CHECKED IN WITH THEM TO SAY THEY ARE OK. WORKING GROUP HAS PASSED ON THESE MESSAGES TO RELATIVES IN US WHEREVER POSSIBLE, AND IS MAINTAINING REFERENCE LISTS OF THOSE AMERICANS WHOSE SITUATION HAS UNCLASSIFIED
- UNCLASSIFIED
- PAGE 02 STATE 290330
- BEEN ASCERTAINED.
3. THE WORKING GROUP IS CONTINUING TO RECEIVE A MAXIMUM VOLUME OF CALLS ASKING FOR INFORMATION ON FRIENDS OR RELATIVES IN MEXICO. ADDITIONAL PHONE LINES ARE BEING INSTALLED TO HANDLE THE HEAVY VOLUME.
4. MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE EARTHQUAKE IS HEAVY, LARGELY FOCUSING ON COLLAPSED BUILDINGS IN MEXICO CITY, INITIAL EFFORTS TO COPE WITH THE DISASTER, AND FIRST

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PERSON ACCOUNTS FROM AMERICAN TOURISTS RETURNING FROM MEXICO SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE AND HAM RADIO ACCOUNTS OF THE SITUATION THERE.

5. US MISSION GENEVA REPORTS THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES (RCS) HAS DISPATCHED SEVERAL TEAMS TO MEXICO TO ASSESS THE SITUATION THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES STRESSED THAT THERE WAS AS YET NO MEXICAN NATIONAL APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE, AND THAT THEY WERE AWAITING WORD FROM THE MEXICAN RED CROSS AS TO THE NATURE OF ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE, IF ANY, THEY WISHED TO RECEIVE. MEXICO TRADITIONALLY SEEKS TO COPE WITH DISASTERS WITH ITS OWN RESOURCES. SHULTZ

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PAGE 01 STATE 290867
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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 290867

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MX, AEMR
SUBJECT: MEXICO CITY EARTHQUAKE HOUSE JOINT
RESOLUTION 394

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 394
INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMEN WRIGHT, FASCELL, AND DE LA GARZA
AND PASSED BY VOICE VOTE ON SEPTEMBER 20.

QUOTE WHEREAS ON SEPTEMBER 19, 1985, MEXICO SUFFERED A
DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE RESULTING IN HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE AND
INJURIES TO MANY OF ITS CITIZENS;

WHEREAS THE UNITED STATES IS BOTH MEXICO'S NEIGHBOR AND
FRIEND; AND

WHEREAS BONDS OF FAMILY, FRIENDSHIP, AND MUTUAL ESTEEM
LINK THE PEOPLES OF OUR TWO NATIONS: NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

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PAGE 02 STATE 290867

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, THAT THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS
OF THE UNITED STATES, EXTENDS TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT
OF MEXICO OUR MOST PROFOUND SYMPATHIES IN THIS TIME OF

TRAGEDY.

SEC. 2 THE PRESIDENT SHOULD PROVIDE ALL APPROPRIATE
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE TO HELP PREVENT

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FURTHER LOSS OF LIFE, ALLEVIATE SUFFERING, AND SAFEGUARD
THE PUBLIC HEALTH IN MEXICO.

SEC. 3 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE
GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO, IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH MEXICO
IN LONG TERM EFFORTS TO RECOVER FROM AFFECTS OF
THE EARTHQUAKE. UNQUOTE.

2. H. J. RES. 394 ALSO PASSED THE SENATE SEPTEMBER 20 AND
WILL BE SENT TO THE PRESIDENT.
MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. SHULTZ

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 290883

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: EAID, WFP

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD PROGRAM REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

1. WORLD FOOD PROGRAM UNABLE TO REACH UN REPRESENTATIVES
MEXICO CITY REGARDING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE THROUGH THEIR
NORMAL CHANNELS AND WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S AND/OR
AID'S OFDA TO ASSIST IN RELAYING MESSAGE, TEXT BELOW. IN
MOST EXPEDITIOUS MEANS AVAILABLE TO THE UNDP RESIDENT
REPRESENTATIVE MR. G. SILVA - ARANOA, A.P. 6719, MEXICO,
6 D.F., TELE 2501354 OR 2501555 EXT. 108 ALTERNATIVELY
TO THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE MR. DE
PEREDO AT SAME ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

A. FOR DE PEREDO/FIORVANTI FROM RUTLEDGE/GNOCCHI. RE
MEXICO CITY 19 SEPTEMBER 1985 EARTHQUAKE, PLEASE TELEX
YOUR COMMENTS ON SITUATION, INCLUDING ASSESSEMENT ON
DISASTER. VICTIMS AND FOOD AID NEEDS, IF ANY. IF REPEAT
IF YOU BELIEVE WFP IMMEDIATE FOOD AID REQUIRED BY GOM,
PLEASE BEAR IN MIND THAT AAA TELEX REQUEST TO
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DIRECTOR-GENERAL FAO INFO INGRAM WOULD BE SUFFICIENT FOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO FORMULATE RECOMMENDATION. BBB WFP
RESPONSE TO IMMEDIATE NEEDS WOULD REQUIRE LOAN FROM
GOVERNMENT-HELP FOOD STOCKS TO BE REPLENISHED UPON
ARRIVAL OF WFP SHIPMENT. PLEASE REFER TO WFP MANUAL
CHAPTER 16, ANNEX B FOR INFORMATION REQUESTS AS PART OF
ASSISTING SITUATION.

B. REQUEST FIORVANTI TELEX OR TELEPHONE GNOCCHI

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

INFORMING HIS ETD MEXICO CITY. REGARDS, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM. END TEXT.

3. IF UNDP UNABLE TO TRAESPONSE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY/MEXICO ASSISTANCE IN TRANSMITTING RESPONSE TO ROME FOR FODAG FOR FORWARDING TO WORLD FOOD PROGRAM. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. SHULTZ

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FOLLOWING REPEAT SENT ACTION SECSTATE 20 SEP QUOTE

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FOR CA/OCS, ARA/EMR AND MEXICAN EARTHQUAKE WORKING GROUP

E.O. 12356: NA

TAGS: AMGT, CASC, MDRO, IT, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICAN REQUEST FOR COMMUNICATIONS' ASSISTANCE

1. MEXICAN EMBASSY IN ROME HAS ASKED FOR OUR ASSISTANCE
IN FORWARDING ASAP FOLLOWING MESSAGE.

2. "FOR SECRETARY SEPULVEDA FROM MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TO
ITALY WECKMANN: EMBASSY UNABLE TO REACH TLATELOCO BY
EITHER TELEX OR TELEPHONE IN PAST TWO DAYS. WILL BE
GREATLY RELIEVED IF RELACIONES EXTERIORES CONTACT US
AS SOON AS FEASIBLE AT EITHER CHANCERY OR RESIDENCE.
HUNDREDS OF MEXICAN RESIDENTS OR TOURISTS IN ROME DEEPLY
WORRIED ABOUT FATE OF THEIR FAMILIES IN MEXICO CITY AND
OTHER PARTS. EMBASSY PERSONNEL, INCLUDING MYSELF, SHARE
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PAGE 02 STATE 291291

THOSE WORRIES. ON OTHER HAND, MISSION HAS RECEIVED
OFFERS OF HELP FROM ITALIAN MINISTRIES OF CIVIL PROTECTION
AND DEFENSE. IF SUCH OFFERS ARE ACCEPTED BY OUR GOVERN-
MENT, WE HAVE TO DEFINE QUICKLY THE KIND OF AID WE NEED,
FOR INSTANCE PHARMACEUTICALS OR PROVISIONAL TENTS. TAKING
INTO CONSIDERATION ITALY'S EXPERIENCE IN EARTHQUAKES,
MINISTER FOR CIVIL PROTECTION ZAMBERLETTI SUGGESTS
IMMEDIATE DISPATCH TO MEXICO OF MEDICAL UNITS ESPECIALLY
TRAINED AND EQUIPPED FOR EARTHQUAKES, AND OF DOGS
SPECIALIZED IN DETECTING SURVIVORS IN COLLAPSED BUILDINGS."

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

3. PLEASE ADVISE IF TRANSMISSION POSSIBLE AND OF ANY RESULTS.

RAOTE MINIMIZE CONSIDERED SHULTZ

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FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

EO 12356: NA

TAGS: MX, AR

SUBJ: EARTHQUAKE IN MEXICO: MESSAGE TO SWEDISH EMBASSY

1. PLEASE FORWARD BELOW TO SWEDISH EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON.

2. EARTHQUAKE 0720 ON 9/19 APPEARS TO BE QUITE SERIOUS
7.5 GRADE ON THE RICHTER SCALE, THE EPICENTER IS
REPORTED TO BE 350 KMS SOUTHWEST OF ACAPULCO.

3. THE CENTRAL PARTS OF MEXICO CITY HAVE BEEN SEVERELY
DAMAGED WITH MANY BUILDINGS TOTALLY DESTROYED. SOME
DEATHS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. IT IS TOO EARLY HOWEVER TO
JUDGE HOW LARGE. THE EFFECT OF THE EARTHQUAKE MAY BE
SERIOUS AND INFORMATION IS SCARCE. SO FAR NO FIGURES
AS TO DEATHS AND INJURED ARE KNOWN.

4. SWEDISH EMBASSY INTACT AND AREA WHERE MOST SWEDES
LIVE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SPARED AS WELL AS PART WHERE
MANY OF THE SWEDISH COMPANIES ARE SITUATED.

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19333 222227Z

5. MANY SWEDES HAVE REPORTED TO EMBASSY THAT THEY ARE
ALL RIGHT. WE HAVE CHECKED WITH THE SWEDISH COMPANIES AS
FAR AS POSSIBLE AND NO INJURIES REPORTED SO FAR.

6. ALL OUR CONNECTIONS BOTH WITH OTHER PARTS OF THE
COUNTRY AND WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ARE BROKEN. WE HAVE
THEREFORE NOT BEEN ABLE TO REACH THE SWEDISH CONSULATES.
ACCORDING TO RADIO REPORTS ACAPULCO SHOULD BE TOTALLY
INTACT.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

7. WE WILL TRY TO REPORT FURTHER WHEN POSSIBLE. SIGNED
ENNERFELT. GAVIN

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19339 210530Z
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PERSONAL FWR THE SECRETARY FROM GAVIN

EO 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MX, AR
SUBJ: EARTHQUAKE

1. CONFIDENTIAL
ENTIRE TEXT.

2. I HAVE JUST FINISHED AN AERIAL SURVEY OF THE DAMAGED
AREA AND WANT TO GIVE YOU MY IMPRESSIONS WHILE THEY ARE
FRESH. THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE IS SOBERING INDEED.
WE HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE SECRETARIAT OF TOURISM THAT
THERE WERE QUOTE A THOUSAND CASUALTIES UNQUOTE. THIS
MAY BE THE CASE WITH REGARD TO HOTELS, BUT THERE ARE
AT LEAST SEVEN APARTMENT BUILDINGS WHICH SIMPLY FELL
AND WERE COMPLETELY DESTROYED. THESE WERE 12-25 STORIES
TALL AND IN SOME CASES A BLOCK SQUARE. MY OWN ESTIMATE
WOULD BE BETWEEN 10 AND 20 THOUSAND DEAD AND/OR
INJURED.

3. THERE ARE 6-7 MAJOR FIRES STILL BURNING IN LARGE
BUILDINGS. THE SITUATION IS CLEARLY BEYOND THE CAPA-
BILITIES OF THE MEXICAN EMERGENCY SERVICES AT THE
PRESENT TIME. MAJOR EMPHASIS SEEMS TO BE PLACED ON
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 19339 210530Z

SEARCHING THE RUBBLE OF THE LARGEST DESTROYED
BUILDINGS. ON THE GROUND, MORE DAMAGE IS APPARENT.
BUILDINGS WITH SIDES MISSING OR SO SEVERELY DAMAGED
THEY ARE CLEARLY UNINHABITABLE AROUND. ASIDE FROM THE
IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS, THE LONG TERM JOB OF CLEANING UP
WILL BE ENORMOUS.

4. A NUMBER OF GOM BUILDINGS ARE SEVERELY DAMAGED.
MOST SERIOUS, THE SECRETARIAT OF COMUNICACIONES Y
TRANSPORTES BUILDING IS OVER HALF DESTROYED, AND OUR
ESTIMATES ARE THAT SEVERAL MONTHS MAY BE REQUIRED TO
REESTABLISH FULL INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION.

5. IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUESTED:

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THERE IS AN URGENT, REPEAT URGENT NEED FOR THE FOLLOWING:
-- DEMOLITION TEAMS. THE GOM HAS REQUESTED THE URGENT DEPLOYMENT OF DEMOLITION EXPERTS WHO CAN UNDERTAKE THE TASK OF RAZING DAMAGED BUILDINGS. THEY ARE ESTIMATING A MINIMUM OF THIRTY SUCH BUILDINGS, AND THE NUMBER IS PROBABLY MUCH HIGHER. WITHIN THE NEXT 6 HOURS I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO TELL THE GOM THAT ADVANCE TEAMS WILL ARRIVE NO LATER THAN TOMORROW.

-- HELICOPTER CRANE SHIPS AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT TO MOVE RUBBLE. THE GO
IS EMPLOYING ALL ITS RESOURCES TO
CLEAR VARIOUS SITES. HOWEVER, THERE IS SELDOM MORE THAN ONE CRANE AT EACH SITE, MOST OF WHICH ARE A SQUARE BLOCK IN AREA. TONS OF RUBBLE ARE BEING SIFTED BY HAND. WE MUST GET THIS EQUIPMENT IN PLACE ASAP, AND CERTAINLY WITHIN THE NEXT DAY OR SO.

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PAGE 03 MEXICO 19339 210530Z

-- FIREFIGHTING/SPRAY HELICOPTERS. THE GOM HAS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE IN FIGHTING THE MAJOR FIRES AND SPECIFICALLY THIS EQUIPMENT. WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF USING SOME NAU HELIS FOR THIS PURPOSE, BUT THIS WILL TAKE TIME.

-- SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS. THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE NEED FOR EQUIPMENT WHICH CAN BE USED TO ENTER SMOKE-FILLED AREAS AND WORK IN SITES WHERE THE STENCH OF DECAYING BODIES IS OVERWHELMING. ALTHOUGH THE GOM HAS NOT SPECIFIED NUMBERS, WE WOULD ESTIMATE THAT SEVERAL THOUSAND OF THESE DEVICES ARE REQUIRED.

6. I CANNOT OVEREMPHASIZE THE URGENCY OF THESE NEEDS. IMMEDIATE ACTION IS REQUIRED SO THAT I CAN RESPOND TO THE GOM REQUEST.

7. AS I WAS SIGNING THIS CABLE FOR TRANSMISSION WE EXPERIENCED ANOTHER SEVERE TREMOR. I WOULD ESTIMATE IT WILL MEASURE AT LEAST SIX (6) ON THE RICHTER SCALE. IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CAUSE ADDITIONAL COMPLICATIONS. THE URGENCY OF THIS REQUEST IS NOW EVEN GREATER. REGARDS.
GAVIN

NOTE BY OC/T: THIS IS A DUPLICATE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 25 - SIGNIFICANT QUAKE REPEATS AT 1940 HRS

AT 1940 HRS STAFF PRESENT IN EMBASSY FELT SIGNIFICANT
TREMOR WE ROUGHLY ESTIMATED AT ABOUT SIX ON THE RICHTER
SCALE. SHOCK LASTED TWO AND A HALF MINUTES. AT MOMENT
WE HAVE NO SEISMIC READING OR MORE INFORMED BASIS FOR
ESTIMATING MAGNITUDE OF SHOCK. UNAM SEISMIC CENTER
REPORTS THAT LATEST AFTERSHOCK WAS IN SAME
LOCATION AS ORIGINAL AND MORE OR LESS THE SAME RHYTHM.
NO OFFICIAL WORD ON RICHTER SCALE READING. (DRAFTED:
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REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

E.O. 12356: DECL: N/A
TAGS: MX, AR
SUBJ: GOM REQUEST FOR FIREFIGHTING HELOS

1. NAU REPORTS THAT MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS THIRTEEN BELL 2-12 HELICOPTERS THAT COULD BE USED FOR COMBATING FIRES IN MEXICO CITY. REQUEST OFDA CONTACT BILL SMITH, PRESIDENT EVERGREEN HELICOPTERS, MCMINNVILLE, OREGON AND ASCERTAIN AVAILABILITY OF BAMBI BUCKETS. EMBASSY STAFF HAS ON BOARD A U.S. TECHNICIAN CURRENTLY WORKING WITH NAU PROGRAM WHO HAS THREE YEARS EXPERIENCE IN USE OF EQUIPMENT.

2. EMBASSY PREPARED TO COORDINATE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE FOR AIRCRAFT TO PICK UP BAMBI BUCKETS IN OREGON.

3. PLEASE ADVISE FLASH. GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 28 - EARTHQUAKE

RADIO REPORTS THAT 1940 QUAKE WAS 6.5 ON THE RICHTER
SCALE WITH EPICENTER APPROXIMATELY IN THE SAME
LOCATION AS YESTERDAY'S MAJOR QUAKE. (DRAFTED:POL:
AHARDY) GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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UNCLAS MEXICO 19344

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE AND OPERATIONS CENTER

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, MX, AMGT

SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE - TELECON 9/20/85

1. THIS IS TO CONFIRM THE MESSAGE I PASSED ON THROUGH CONSULATE MONTERREY TO OPERATIONS CENTER.
2. I SPOKE TO SECRETARY OF HEALTH DR. SOBERON THIS MORNING AND ASKED HIM TO CONFIRM TO US WHICH OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL HAD BEEN DESIGNATED TO COORDINATE RESCUE EFFORTS.
2. HE RESPONDED THAT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL THE SECRETARY OF GOBERNACION (INTERIOR) WAS TO COORDINATE AND THAT FOR MEXICO CITY THE GOVERNOR (REGENTE) WOULD COORDINATE. HE ALSO STATED THAT SECRETARY SEPULVEDA'S OFFICE WOULD BE INVOLVED REGARDING ANY ASSISTANCE FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES.
3. I HAVE INITIATED CALLS TO BARTLETT, SEPULVEDA AND THE REGENTE THROUGH THEIR OFFICES AND THROUGH THE PRESI-

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19344 220435Z

DENCY.

4. SOBERON INFORMED ME THAT IN THE EMERGENCY CABINET MEETING HELD WITH PRESIDENT DE LA MADRID THIS MORNING, DE LA MADRID HAD INDICATED A DESIRE TO OBTAIN THE SERVICES OF DEMOLITION EXPERTS, SPECIFICALLY THOSE WHO BRING DOWN BUILDINGS THROUGH THE USE OF EXPLOSIVES. IN GIVING SOBERON THE INFORMATION ON ASSISTANCE THAT IS AVAILABLE FROM THE UNITED STATES (REF STATE 289910), I FOUND THAT HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

FROM THE BUREAU OF MINES.

5. PLEASE GIVE USATION ON THESE TWO ITEMS AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE. GAVIN

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19346 212235Z
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DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA MX

SUBJECT: SITREP 27 - EARTHQUAKE

1. RADIO REPORTS NAMES OF TWELVE ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS WHICH HAVE COLLAPSED SINCE SECOND MAJOR TREMOR WHICH OCCURRED AT 1940 HRS THIS EVENING. CLEARLY OTHER BUILDINGS NOT YET IDENTIFIED HAVE COLLAPSED AS WELL AND NEW GAS LEAKS HAVE OCCURRED. THE ZONA ROSA NEAR THE EMBASSY IS ALSO PARTLY CORDONED OFF AND NEW DAMAGE MUST HAVE OCCURRED THERE.

2. RADIO ALSO REPORTS AID BEING RECEIVED FROM ITALY, JAPAN, COLOMBIA AND UNITED NATIONS, MOSTLY DOCTORS, MEDICAL TEAMS AND MEDICINES. UNITED NATIONS IS SAID
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TO HAVE SENT TWO AIRPLANES WITH MEDICS AND SUPPLIES FROM GENEVA. A UN UNDERSECRETARY IS REPORTEDLY BEING ASKED BY PEREZ DE QUELLAR TO COME TO MEXICO PRESUMABLY TO COORDINATE UN AID. (POL:AHARDY) GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

CONFIDENTIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 19347

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 26 - MEXICO CITY EARTHQUAKE: MEXICAN
MILITARY'S ROLE

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

BEGIN SUMMARY

2. EMBASSY DAO HAS PROVIDED SOME OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING
THE ROLE OF THE MEXICAN MILITARY IN FIELDING BOTH RESCUE
AND RELIEF OPERATIONS, AS WELL AS FULFILLING A SECURITY
ROLE. ACCORDING TO THE DAO, NAVAL PERSONNEL ARE
INVOLVED IN ACTUAL RESCUE OPERATIONS, WHILE THE MARINES
AND ARMY ARE FULFILLING SECURITY ROLES.
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END SUMMARY

ROLE OF THE MEXICAN NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

3. THE MEXICAN NAVY AND MEXICAN MARINE CORPS ARE HEAVILY
INVOLVED IN DISASTER RELIEF AND RESCUE AS A RESULT OF
SEPTEMBER 19, 1985 EARTHQUAKE WHICH DEVASTATED THE CENTRAL

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

PART OF MEXICO CITY. THIRTEEN HUNDRED NAVAL PERSONNEL WERE REPORTED TO BE INVOLVED IN RESCUE OPERATIONS. EARLY TELEVISION COVERAGE ON THE MORNING OF THE DISASTER SHOWED MEXICAN NAVY AND MARINE CORPS VEHICLES AND PERSONNEL AT DISITES PROVIDING SECURITY AS WELL AS MANPOWER IN DIGGING OUT VICTIMS TRAPPED IN RUBBLE.

4. ON SEPTEMBER 20, RO'S WERE ALLOWED TO ENTER CORDONED-OFF AREAS AND OBSERVE RESCUE EFFORTS NEAR THE SECRETARIA DE MARINA BUILDING LOCATED SOUTH OF PASEO DE LA REFORMA. A LARGE CONCENTRATION OF MEXICAN NAVY AND MARINE CORPS PERSONNEL WERE OBSERVED IN A SIX BLOCK AREA SURROUNDING THE SECRETARIA DE MARINA HEADQUARTERS BUILDING. THEIR RESCUE EFFORTS WERE SPREAD AMONG FIVE BUILDINGS THAT HAD BEEN FLATTENED IN THIS AREA. THREE BUILDINGS OF NOTE WERE: THE HOTEL REGIS, THE SECRETARY OF MARINA ARCHIVES BUILDING, AND THE SECRETARY OF MARINA CLASSROOM BUILDING. IT WAS REPORTED THAT MEXICAN NAVY PERSONNEL ARE TRAPPED IN THE ARCHIVES AND TWO MEXICAN MARINES WERE KILLED WHEN THE HOTEL REGIS COLLAPSED FURTHER DURING RESCUE OPERATIONS. THE RUINS OF THESE BUILDINGS WERE SMOLDERING WHEN OBSERVED AND IT IS ESTIMATED RECOVERY OF LIVE VICTIMS IS UNLIKELY. ALSO, IT IS ESTIMATED

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THAT THE ARCHIVES ARE LOST.

5. THE MAIN HEADQUARTERS BUILDING OF THE SECRETARIA DE MARINA WAS ONLY SLIGHTLY DAMAGED AND IS CURRENTLY SERVING AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR NAVY AND MARINE RESCUE EFFORTS. NAVY PERSONNEL WERE OBSERVED RESTING ON COTS IN COURTYARD AREAS OF THE BUILDING AND WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN WORKING THROUGHOUT THE PREVIOUS DAY AND NIGHT.

6. IT IS ESTIMATED BY MEXICAN NAVY PERSONNEL THAT RESCUE EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME BASED ON THE GREAT EXTENT OF DEVASTATION WITHIN THE CITY.

7. THE MEXICAN MARINE CORPS PERSONNEL OBSERVED WERE ARMED AND SERVING IN SECURITY ROLES, WHILE NAVY PERSONNEL WERE MORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN RESCUE EFFORTS.

COMMENT

8. THE MEXICAN NAVY IS MOBILIZED IN THE MEXICO CITY AREA WITH LOCALLY STATIONED TROOPS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE RESCUE/DISASTER RELIEF EFFORT. NAVAL O WERE OBSERVED IN THE STREETS SUPERVISING RESCUE EFFORTS AT SITES OF COLLAPSED BUILDINGS. THIS INDICATES A COORDINATED EFFORT, CONCENTRATING ON LIFE SAVING MISSIONS, WITH THE NAVY PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE IN PROVIDING

LEADERSHIP IN RESCUE EFFORTS INVOLVING RED CROSS
VOLUNTEERS, SOCIAL SECURITY AS WELL AS MILITARY PERSONNEL.

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9. NAVAL HEADQUARTERS APPEARED TO BE ACTIVELY DIRECTING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MEXICO 19347

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 26 - MEXICO CITY EARTHQUAKE: MEXICAN

RESCUE EFFORTS WITH STAFF FUNCTIONING AT FULL CAPACITY.
POPULAR

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10. LOSS OF THE NAVAL ARCHIVES COULD BE A SERIOUS SET
BACK FOR THE NAVY AND IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THEY MAY HAVE
REPRESENTED THE ONLY RECORDS ON HAND. CONSEQUENCES OF
THIS LOSS ARE NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR TO THE RO AT THIS

TIME.

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END COMMENT
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THE ROLE OF THE MEXICAN ARMY IN DISASTER RELIEF

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11. A SHORT TIME AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE STRUCK ON SEPTEMBER 19, THE MEXICAN ARMY AND AIR FORCE WERE PLACED ON FULL ALERT. THE MILITARY'S DISASTER RELIEF PLAN, DN-III-E, WAS IMMEDIATELY PUT INTO EFFECT. MILITARY TEAMS WERE SENT TO AFFECTED AREAS TO ASSESS DAMAGE AND PROVIDE RELIEF, WHERE POSSIBLE. IN THE AREAS WHERE DAMAGE WAS MOST SEVERE, SOLDIERS PROVIDED SECURITY THROUGHOUT TO PREVENT LOOTING AS WELL AS GUARANTEE PUBLIC SAFETY.

-
12. ON SEPTEMBER 20, SOLDIERS FROM MILITARY POLICE, INFANTRY AND AIRBORNE BNS REINFORCED POLICE UNITS IN PROVIDING SECURITY IN THOSE AREAS OF THE CITY THAT EXPERIENCED THE MOST DAMAGE. A NUMBER OF THE SOLDIERS QUESTIONED SAID THEIR ROLE WAS PRINCIPALLY TO PROVIDE SUCH SECURITY. THEY HAD CORDONED OFF A NUMBER OF AREAS AND PATROLLED THOSE AREAS ON A 24-HOUR BASIS. THEY STATED THEY HAD BEEN TOLD THEY COULD EXPECT TO FURNISH SECURITY IN THE AFFECTED AREAS FOR AT LEAST EIGHT DAYS. ONE SOLDIER MENTIONED THAT THE EVENING BEFORE THE MILITARY HAD APPREHENDED 18 LOOTERS IN THE TLATELOLCO AREA.

-
13. THE ARMY DID NOT APPEAR TO BE PERFORMING ANY ROLE OTHER THAN THAT OF SECURITY. HEAVY MILITARY EQUIPMENT WAS NOT VISIBLE IN THE DAMAGED AREAS, NOR WERE MILITARY AMBULANCES OR RESCUE TEAMS. A NUMBER OF MILITARY PERSONNEL VOICED THE OPINION THAT RESCUE OPERATIONS WERE PROGRESSING TOO SLOWLY PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF
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COORDINATED EFFORT. THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN AGENCIES WERE PARTICIPATING IN THE DISASTER RELIEF OPERATIONS, BUT A CENTRAL COORDINATOR WAS LACKING, THEY SAID, AND THIS SEVERELY CURTAILED THE EFFICIENCY OF MANY OF THE RESCUE OPERATIONS.

-
14. RUMORS HAVE BEGUN TO CIRCULATE THAT, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 21, THE ARMY WILL BE PLACED ON A MODIFIED ALERT STATUS. RADIO REPORTS CONTINUE TO BE TRANSMITTED TO DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS FROM THE MILITARY ZONES THROUGHOUT

THE COUNTRY, GIVING THE MILITARY A MORE ACCURATE ASSESS-
MENT OF THE SITUATION THAN MOST OF THEIR CIVILIAN COUNTER-
PARTS. GAVIN

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FOR AID/OFDA, DEPARTMENT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE
E.O. 12356 N/A

TAGS: AEMR, MX, AMGT, ABLD

SUBJECT: DISASTER ASSYSTANCE FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE

REF: TAYLOR/LOVEDAY TELCON, 21:00 HRS.

1. WE HAVE URGENT RQUEST FROM CHIEF OF POLICE OF THE
MIGUEL HIDALGO DELEGATION FOR 10 SMALL (1/4 KW) PORTABLE
GAS OPERATED GENERATORS TO FURNISH LIGHT AND POWER FOR
SEARCH OPERATIONS.

2. WE ARE IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
SOCIAL SECURITY AND HOSPITAL NETWORKS AND HAVE CONFIRMED
REPORTS OF FOUR HOSPITALS BEING EVACUATED AND OVER 10,000
DISPLACED PERSONS WITHOUT SHELTERS. WE SUSPECT THIS NUMBER
WILL REACH WELL OVER 50,000 AS REPORTS START TO COME IN.
WE SHOULD THEREFORE REQUEST UP TO 50,000 BLANKETS,
SWEATERS, AND WARM CLOTHES SINCE TEMPERATURES WILL SINK
IN THE LOW 50'S AT NIGHT AND RAIN IS STILL POSSIBLE. BABY
BOTTLES, DIAPERS AND CHILDREN'S PAJAMAS HAVE ALO BEEN
REQUESTED.

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3. PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS OF ETA IF COMMODITIES WILL BE
AVAILABLE, AS WELL AS PLASTIC TEMPORARY SHELTERS FOR
APPROXIMATELY 50,000 DISPLACED PERSONS.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS HAS
COLLECTED TONS OF ITEMS. REQUEST OFDA TO CONTACT MAYOR,
BUT SEE NO NEED HIM TO VISIT EXICO. REQUEST OFDA
COORDINATE.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

5. PLEASE ADVISE.
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UNCLAS MEXICO 19351

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MX
SUBJECT: FCS ASSISTANCE TO U.S. COMPANIES FOLLOWING
EARTHQUAKE

1. SUMMARY: FCS/MEXICO TRIED TO CONTACT THE MAJOR U.S. FIRMS IN MEXICO FOLLOWING EARTHQUAKE TO OBTAIN STATUS REPORT ON U.S. AND MEXICAN EMPLOYEES, THEIR FACILITIES, AND TO OFFER ANY EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE THEY MIGHT REQUIRE. GENERALLY, ALL AMERICAN EMPLOYEES, FAMILIES, HOMES AND BUSINESS OFFICES AND PLANTS ARE UNHARMED, PROBABLY BECAUSE MOST ARE LOCATED OUTSIDE THE CENTER OF THE CITY. SOME MINOR DAMAGE TO FACILITIES WAS REPORTED. HOTEL DAMAGE WAS QUITE SERIOUS IN THE CITY'S CENTER. MOST MEXICAN EMPLOYEES ARE SAFE; SOME MEXICAN EMPLOYEES HAVE NOT CHECKED IN SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE AND THEIR STATUS IS UNKNOWN, SOME HAVE LOST FAMILY MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY
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CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS WHICH COLLAPSED, AND SOME HAVE LOST THEIR HOMES. A VERY FEW FIRMS WERE ABLE TO ESTABLISH LIMITED TELEX CONTACT WITH THEIR U.S. OFFICES. END SUMMARY.

2. FCS/MEXICO TRIED TO CONTACT BETWEEN 40 AND 50 U.S. FIRMS. TELEPHONE SERVICE IS LIMITED AND MANY FIRMS WERE CLOSED. WE WERE SUCCESSFUL, HOWEVER, IN REACHING 2 PANIES. AMERICAN EMPLOYEES, THEIR FAMILIES, AND HOMES ARE SAFE. MOST PLANTS AND FACILITIES ARE ALSO SAFE. WE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

ATTRIBUTE THIS TO THE FACT THAT THEY ARE, FOR THE MOST PART, LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE SEVERELY AFFECTED CENTER OF THE CITY. HILTON'S CONTINENTAL HOTEL, LOCATED IN THE CENTER, REPORTS EXTENSIVE DAMAGE (THREE FLOORS COLLAPSED IN A WING OF THE BUILDING) AND STATES HOTEL IS NOT SAFE AND HAS BEEN EVACUATED. THOSE U.S. FIRMS WITH OFFICES IN THE CENTRAL AREA, SUCH AS AMERICAN EXPRESS' TRAVEL OFFICE, ARE CLOSED UNTIL AN EXAMINATION OF STRUCTURAL DAMAGE CAN BE MADE. A NUMBER OF FIRMS, SUCH AS GENERAL MOTORS, REPORTED ABSENT EMPLOYEES, MANY WITH HOMES IN THE CENTRAL CITY. ANDERSON CLAYTON REPORTS TWO MEXICAN EMPLOYEES WITH MISSING CHILDREN WHO WERE IN SCHOOLS THAT COLLAPSED. CONTROL DATA REPORTS THE DEATH OF A MEXICAN EMPLOYEE'S CHILD. K-MART HAS A LOCAL EMPLOYEE WITH MISSING RELATIVES. FORD REPORTS ONE INJURED MEXICAN EMPLOYEE. GILLETTE AND CITIBANK HAVE LOCAL EMPLOYEES WHOSE WIVES DIED IN THE DISASTER. THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING WAS DAMAGED AND HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY CLOSED.

3. COMMUNICATION OUTSIDE MEXICO CITY IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE. THREE U.S. FIRMS CONTACTED ARE ABLE FROM TIME TO TIME TO COMMUNICATE OUTSIDE MEXICO. THESE ARE A.D. LITTLE WITH SOMETIME TELEX COMMUNICATION TO CAMBRIDGE, MASS., AMERICAN
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EXPRESS WITH LIMITED TELEX SERVICE TO FLORIDA AND NEW YORK, AND CONTROL DATA WITH SERVICE TO MONTERREY. SHERATON HAS LIMITED SERVICE TO BOSTON. THE FCS/MEXICO HAS OFFERED TO ASSIST THE AMERICAN CHAMBER AND U.S. FIRMS IN DEALING WITH SPECIFIC PROBLEMS. WE HAVE BEEN SENDING MESSAGES TO USDOC FOR TRANSMITTAL TO U.S. COMPANY HEADQUARTERS. DUE TO THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION AND LACK OF COMMUNICATION, WE ARE ALSO TRANSMITTING SHORT PERSONAL MESSAGES. WE THANK THE DESK IN ADVANCE FOR THEIR COOPERATION AND NCE DURING THIS VERY DIFFICULT TIME.

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UNCLAS MEXICO 19352

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: SENV, MX

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE DATA

REF: GOLDEN 5757

1. USG NEIS DATA PASSED TO UNAM INSTITUTE OF GEOPHYSICS ON MORNING 9/20. INSTITUTE REQUESTS USGS NEIS DATA ON MW MAGNITUDE AND ON LOCATION AND MAGNITUDE OF STRONGEST AFTERSHOCKS. UNAM DATA ALREADY PASSED TO USG NEIS SEPTEL. UNAM EXPECTS TO HAVE FURTHER DATA 9/21.

2. UNAM SCIENTISTS HAVE DETERMINED THAT THE TREMOR WAS CAUSED BY THE SHIFTING OF A LAYER CALLED "COCO" SITUATED UNDERNEATH THE NORTH AMERICAN PLATE. HISTORIC RECORDS KEPT DURING THIS CENTURY INDICATE THAT THE TREMOR OCCURRED IN AN AREA SEISMOLOGISTS TERM A "QUIESCENT" ZONE. IN MEXICO, THIS QUIESCENT ZONE IS SITUATED IN COASTAL WATERS OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN, IN AN AREA APPROXIMATELY FROM MANUATE, MICHOACAN TO LA UNION, GUERRERO. A TEAM OF UNAM SPECIALISTS WILL CONTINUE TO CONDUCT ON-SITE OBSERVATIONS ON THE COAST OF MICHOACAN AND GUERRERO. DATA OBTAINED FROM THESE OBSERVATIONS SHOULD ASSIST UNAM SCIENTISTS TO MORE ACCURATELY DETERMINE RUPTURE SITE AS WELL AS ENERGY RELEASED

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(MAGNITUDE).

3. EMBASSY APPRECIATES RESPONSE OF DR. PEARSON TO RADIO CALL OF 9/19 AND REGRETS INABILITY TO RESPOND TO HIS RADIO INQUIRY FOR DAMAGE ASSESSMENT. (DRAFTED: JDETHOMAS) GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

STATE PLEASE PASS TO USIA FOR AR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, MX, AMGT, ABLD
SUBJECT: VISIT OF MEXICAN TOURISM SECRETARY TO THE
UNITED STATES

1. MEXICAN TOURISM SECRETARIAT JUST INFORMED EMBASSY THAT TOURISM SECRETARY LIC. ANTONIO ENRIQUEZ SAVIGNAC DEPARTED MEXICO CITY AT 1700 HOURS FOR HOUSTON. HE LATER PLANS TO TRAVEL TO NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON, D.C., ENDING HIS TRIP IN THE LATTER CITY ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25. IN ALL THREE PLACES HE INTENDS TO GIVE PRESS CONFERENCES ON THE SITUATION IN MEXICO CITY CAUSED BY THE EARTHQUAKE SEPTEMBER 19. IT IS THE FEELING OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT THAT, DUE TO THE LACK OF COMMUNICATIONS OUTSIDE OF MEXICO CITY, PRINCIPALLY WITH THE UNITED STATES, THE PUBLIC DOES NOT HAVE VALID INFORMATION ON THE TRAGIC OCCURRENCE.

2. EMBASSY COMMENT: IT IS MOST LIKELY THAT THE TOURISM SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS ON THE SITUATION WILL CREATE A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CREDIBILITY GAP. WHILE THE EMBASSY SEES THE SITUATION AS BEING DISASTROUS DUE TO THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE STILL BURIED UNDERNEATH THE RUBBLE, AND THE DAMAGE CAUSED TO THE CITY AND TO THE ECONOMY IN THE LONG RUN, THE SECRETARY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PUT THE BEST FACE ON THE SITUATION. MOST LIKELY, HE WILL EMPHASIZE THE CONTROL THE GOVERNMENT HAS OVER THE SITUATION THAT THINGS ARE NOT AS BAD AS THE U.S. MEDIA HAS INDICATED.

3. WHILE THE SECRETARIAT DID NOT ASK DIRECTLY FOR ASSIS-

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

TANCE, THE FACT THAT IT WANTED THE EMBASSY TO INFORM
WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK INDICATES THAT ASSISTANCE WOULD BE
WELCOME TO THE GOM. WE, HOWEVER, FEEL THAT ANY HELP
WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. GAVIN

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USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS IMMEDIATE

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19356

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX

SUBJECT: SITREP 29

1. SECOND QUAKE TODAY HAS CLEARLY COMPOUNDED BAD SITUATION. POLICE AND MILITARY STILL HAVE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL BUT IN SOME NEIGHBORHOODS IN CENTER OF CITY AND SOUTH ALONG INSURGENTES SUR AXIS ARE VERY HARD PRESSED. AT NIGHT IT HAS BEEN HARDER TO ACCESS DAMAGES BUT AMBULANCE ACTIVITY IS HIGH.

2. DAO TEAMS SENT OUT BY AMBASSADOR TO VERIFY CONDITIONS NOTED 50-75 AMBULANCES ENTERING CENTRAL AREA.

3. IN-CITY HOSPITALS HAVE SUFFERED ADDITIONAL DAMAGE AND UNCLASSIFIED

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ARE TRYING TO EVACUATE PATIENTS AT SAME TIME AS NEW INJURED ARE ARRIVING.

4. NEW GAS LEAKS AND FIRES CONTINUE TO BE A PROBLEM.

5. SOME RADIO REPORTS INDICATE PEOPLE ABANDONING THEIR HOUSES, ESPECIALLY IN MAIN SQUARE AREA (ZOCALO) WHERE THEY ARE CONGREGATING IN OPEN, OTHERS HAVE FORCED THEIR WAY ON BUSES OR TAKEN TO THEIR CARS TO GET OUT OF

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

DOWNTOWN AREA. WE CANNOT MEASURE MAGNITUDE OF NEW DAMAGE. GOVERNMENT SAYS IT IS LIGHT BUT WE TEND TO BELIEVE IT IS SERIOUS. WE HOPE TO HAVE MORE PRECISE INFORMATION TOMORROW MORNING.

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6. AFTER ABOVE DRAFTED, PRESIDLA MADRID WENT ON TELEVISION, CALLED FOR UNITY OF MEXICAN PEOPLE IN THIS CRISIS, EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR VOLUNTARY WORK AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF PEOPLE AND PRIDE IN THEIR RESPONSE TO CRISIS.

-
7. PRESIDENT SAID MEXICO CITY WAS RECUPERATING, THAT MAJOR PART OF CAPITAL WAS OKAY (BIEN). HE SAID THERE WERE NO EXACT FIGURES ON CASUALTIES, BUT DEATHS WERE IN THE HUNDREDS (AN UNDERSTATEMENT). PRESIDENT STATED THE SECOND MAJOR TREMOR WAS LESS INTENSE THAN YESTERDAY'S AND FEWER PEOPLE WERE AFFECTED BY IT.

-
8. FINALLY, PRESIDENT SAID SECRETARIAT OF GOBERNACION MANUEL BARTLETT AND MEXICO CITY MAYOR RAMON AQUIRRE WERE DIRECTING RELIEF EFFORTS. DE LA MADRID THANKED FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE AND OFFERS OF
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PAGE 03 MEXICO 19356 211510Z

ASSISTANCE WHICH HE SAID MEXICO APPRECIATES. HE SAID GOM WAS CONTINUING TO EVALUATE ITS NEEDS. HE ASKED FOR PATIENCE AND SAID MEXICANS WERE WORKING DAY AND NIGHT TO RETURN THE CITY TO NORMAL. PRESIDENT ONLY MENTIONED OUTLYING STATES BRIEFLY NOTING QUAKE HAD DONE REAL BUT LESS DAMAGE THERE.

-
9. LATEST REPORTS ON MAGNITUDE OF SECOND SHOCK RANGE 6.5 TO 7.2 ON RICHTER SCALE, 5.6 ON MERCALLI. COORDINATES OF EPICENTER WERE GIVEN AS 17.4 NORTH AND 102.0 WEST.

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10. COMMENT: PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AS SUMMARIZED PARAS 6 THRU 8 ABOVE, WERE FRANK, COMPREHENSIVE, WELL-MEASURED AND SINCERE. THEY WERE DELIVERED EFFECTIVELY AND MUST HAVE HAD A VERY FAVORABLE IMPACT ON THE MEXICAN PUBLIC.
(DRAFTED:POL:AMHARDY) GAVIN

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19357 211532Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 EB-08
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UNCLAS MEXICO 19357

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 30

1. A FEW MINUTES BEFORE 2300 HRS, CHANNEL 13 DIPLOMATIC REPORTER OLGA BOROBIO ASKED MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY BERNARDO SEPULVEDA ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO. SEPULVEDA ANSWERED THAT MANY GOVERNMENTS, PRIVATE AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE OFFERED TO ASSIST MEXICO. HE THEN SAID THAT MEXICO HAD NOT SOLICITED ASSISTANCE BUT THAT THESE COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS HAD VOLUNTEERED HELP. IN THE PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT THE RELIEF EFFORT, THE MOST URGENT TASK WAS TO RESCUE THOSE TRAPPED IN THE RUINS, HE SAID. THOSE THAT WISH TO HELP SHOULD DIRECT
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THEIR EFFORTS TO THE RESCUE OF PEOPLE WHICH WOULD COMPLEMENT THE MEXICAN EFFORTS. SEPULVEDA THEN LISTED FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, ITALY, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, AND JAPAN AS SENDING RESCUE TEAMS AND EQUIPMENT. BACK IN THE STUDIO, THE ANCHORMAN MENTIONED THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND UNITED STATES ALSO HAD OFFERED HELP AND THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS SENDING A RESCUE AND DEMOLITION TEAM TO MEXICO.

2. AMBASSADOR GAVIN'S COMMENT: "BERNARDO, SADLY, IS

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

EXACTLY ON COURSE." (DRAFTED:LJOHNSOIN

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19358 01 OF 03 211530Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 MEXICO 19358

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX

SUBJECT: SITREP 24 - MEXICO EARTHQUAKE

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1. THE U.S. RED CROSS WILL SEND AN AIRPLANE WITH ASSISTANCE FOR THE INJURED AND HOMELESS PERSONS. THE LOCAL RED CROSS HAS RECEIVED ONLY FOUR NEW INJURY CASES FRIDAY.

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2. THE SECRETARIAT OF GOVERNMENT (SECRETARIA DE GOBERNACION) SAID THAT A NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO RECEIVE DONATIONS, DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN.

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3. MEXICO CITY'S GOVERNMENT WILL ASSIGN 500 MILLION PESOS FOR RESCUE ACTIVITIES. THESE ACTIVITIES CONTINUE. COLLAPSED BUILDINGS ARE EXPECTED TO BE REMOVED IN APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS. SEVERAL DAMAGED BUILDINGS MAY STILL COLLAPSE IN THE NEXT HOURS. CITIZENS HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO STAY AT HOME AND AVOID VISITING DAMAGED AREAS.

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4. SOME SECTORS OF THE CITY STILL HAVE WATER SUPPLY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

PROBLEMS. HEALTH AUTHORITIES RECOMMEND THAT WATER BE BOILED AT LEAST TEN MINUTES AT ALL HOMES. THE SUBWAY SYSTEM AND BUS TRANSPORTATION ARE WORKING NORMALLY -- THE SAME APPLIES TO LOCAL TELEPHONE SERVICE. SEVERAL HOUSES AND BUILDINGS COLLAPSED IN LAZARO CARDENAS, MICHOACAN STATE, AND THE SOUTHERN AREA OF THE STATE OF JALISCO HAS BEEN DECLARED DISASTER ZONE, WITH TENS OF CASUALTIES AND INJURED, ALTHOUGH NO SPECIFIC NUMBERS WERE GIVEN.

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6. PRESIDENT REAGAN'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT MIGUEL DE LA MADRID WAS NOTED ON NOON NEWSCASTS, AS WERE OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ARGENTINA, URUGUAY, CANADA, ISRAEL, PORTUGAL, FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND.

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7. THE OFFICIAL TV NETWORK "INMEVISION" HAS RESUMED NORMAL BROADCASTING, AS HAVE MOST RADIO STATIONS.

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8. THERE HAVE BEEN NO RPT NO NEW REPORTS ON THE SITUATION OF THE MEXICAN HIGHWAYS AND RAILROADS. TELEGRAPHIC SERVICE, BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL, HAS RESUMED.

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9. REPORTS EARLIER IN THE DAY INDICATED THAT ALL RAIL LINES ARE FUNCTIONING. MOST ROADS THROUGHOUT AFFECTED STATES OF MEXICO, GUERRERO, COLIMA, MEXICO, OAXACA AND JALISCO ARE OPEN, ALTHOUGH MANY WERE DAMAGED. ROAD FROM GUADALAJARA TO CIUDAD GUZMAN WAS IMPASSIBLE EARLIER TODAY AND MAY STILL BE IMPASSIBLE. ROADS IN AND OUT OF ZIHUATANEJO ARE ALSO DOUBTFUL. PORTS OF LAZARO CARDENAS AND ZIHUATANEJO WERE HARD HIT. THE NATION'S 53 COMMERCIAL AIRPORTS ARE ALL OPERATIVE.

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10. THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME STATUS REPORTS ON GOVERNMENT OFFICES:

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ENERGY: PEMEX, SEMIP, CFE

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11. STATE OIL COMPANY (PEMEX): PEMEX REPORTS NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO ITS BUILDINGS IN MEXICO NOR TO ITS OPERATIONS, REFINING FACILITIES AND DISTRIBUTION CENTERS. ALL PIPELINES APPEAR TO BE UNDAMAGED AND OPERATING NORMALLY AS ARE THE EXPORT FACILITIES. IN SHORT, THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY APPEARS TO BE UNAFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE. NO SHORTAGES OF GASOLINE OR OTHER FUELS IS PREDICTED OR APPARENT. PEMEX, IN FACT, HAS PLACED ITS UNDAMAGED EXTENSIVE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AT THE DISPOSAL OF MMUNICATIONS MINISTRY.

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12. SECRETARIAT FOR ENERGY, MINES AND PARASTATAL INDUSTRIES (SEMIP): CONTACTS AT SEMIP REPORT THAT ALL THEIR BUILDINGS ARE SOUND AND PERSONNEL ARE WORKING. THE BUILDING ON INSURGENTES SUR WHERE THE SECRETARY HAS HIS OFFICE IS FULLY FUNCTIONAL. THE OTHER MAJOR

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 MEXICO 19358

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 24 - MEXICO EARTHQUAKE

OFFICE IN THE COLONIA CONDESA ALSO IS FUNCTIONAL.

13. FEDERAL ELECTRIC COMMISSION (CFE): WHEN THE OFFICE BUILDING WAS VISITED THURSDAY EVENING, THERE WAS EVIDENCE OF EXTENSIVE CLEANING INSIDE THE BUILDING BUT WALLS AND EXTERIOR INCLUDING WINDOWS APPEARED SOUND. HIGH LEVEL PERSONNEL WERE WORKING BUT MOST OF THE STAFF HAD DEPARTED. THERE WAS EVIDENCE OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF

DEBRIS IN THE STREETS AROUND CFE HEADQUARTERS. CFE
OFFICIALS REPORT NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO ANY
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GENERATION FACILITIES. OBVIOUSLY SERVICE TO SOME AREAS
OF THE CITY HAD BEEN AFFECTED DUE TO DAMAGED POWER LINES
OR SUB-STATIONS. CFE PREDICTS ELECTRICAL SERVICE WILL BE
RESTORED TO ALL AREAS WITHIN 36 HOURS.

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14. ENERGY AND MINING SECTORS: FROM ALL REPORTS AND
APPARENT CONDITION THE SECTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT WHICH
ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATING OR MONITORING THE ENERGY
AND MINING SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY ARE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY.
BECAUSE PEMEX HAS SUCH AN ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM,
THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF DIFFICULTIES WITH ESSENTIAL
COMMUNICATION IN THE ENERGY SECTOR. IN FACT THE PEMEX
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK HAS BEEN PLACED AT THE DISPOSAL OF
THE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY. PERSONNEL CONTACTED IN
THESE AREAS SEEMED WELL INFORMED ABOUT CONDITIONS IN THEIR
AREAS AND GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF HAVING MATTERS IN HAND.

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15. TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT (SECOFI)

-
THE MAIN SECOFI BUILDING WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED. THE TOP
TWO FLOORS HAVE COLLAPSED AND ALL LOWER FLOORS ALSO
SUFFERED MAJOR DAMAGE. THE AUTHORITIES HAVE SO FAR
NOT ALLOWED ANY ACCESS TO THE BUILDING AND ITS STATE
IS SUCH THAT IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE EVEN TO ENTER IT TO
RETRIEVE FILES. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE STRUCTURE WILL
HAVE TO BE DEMOLISHED. SECOFI ADMITS THAT THREE OF ITS
OTHER BUILDINGS WERE SERIOUSLY DAMAGED AND CANNOT AT
LEAST FOR THE PRESENT BE ENTERED. SECOFI HAD SEVERAL
OTHER BUILDINGS IN THE AREA THAT WAS MOST SEVERELY
DAMAGED BY THE EARTHQUAKE. EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN ABLE
TO ASCERTAIN THE CONDITION OF THESE BUILDINGS, ALTHOUGH
WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT TELEPHONE SERVICE HAS NOT BEEN
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RESTORED TO THESE BUILDINGS. AFFECTED SECOFI EMPLOYEES
HAVE BEEN ASKED TO REPORT TO THE UNDAMAGED MEXICAN
FOREIGN TRADE INSTITUTE (IMCE) TO BE ASSIGNED TEMPORARY
WORK LOCATIONS. IT IS CLEAR THAT SECOFI'S OPERATIONS
WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY DISRUPTED FOR SOME TIME. AREAS
PRINCIPALLY AFFECTED WILL BE THE ISSUANCE OF IMPORT
AND EXPORT PERMITS IN GENERAL AND THE SPECIAL EXPORT
PERMITS REQUIRED UNDER THE U.S.-MEXICO TEXTILE AND
STEEL AGREEMENTS.

16. COMARMEX

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SUB-SECRETARY ADOLFO HEGEWISCH'S OFFICES AT COMARMEX
SUFFERED NO DAMAGE. ALTHOUGH HE IS OUT OF TOWN (IN
JAPAN) UNTIL SUNDAY (9/22), HIS STAFF IS OPERATING
NORMAL HOUY WERE ON THE JOB BOTH THURSDAY AND
FRIDAY.

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SECRETARIA DE HACIENDA AND CREDITO PUBLICO AND THE REST

OF THE NATIONAL PALACE

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17. (U) MEXICAN SECURITY OFFICIALS HAD CORDONED OFF THE
ENTIRE ZOCALO AND REPORTING OFFICERS WERE UNABLE TO VISIT
THE EXECUTIVE OFFICES AND THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICES OF
SHCP. A GUARD AT THE EDGE OF THE ZOCALO REPORTED THAT
THE PALACIO NACIONAL HAD RECEIVED NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE.

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18. (U) EMBASSY OFFICIALS THEN SURVEYED THE ZOCALO AREA
FROM THE ROOF OF THE MAJESTIC HOTEL WHICH IS SITUATED ON
THE EDGE OF THE ZOCALO DIRECTLY OPPOSITE THE NATIONAL

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UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 MEXICO 19358

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX

SUBJECT: SITREP 24 - MEXICO EARTHQUAKE

PALACE. THE ENTIRE AREA APPEARS TO HAVE RECEIVED LITTLE EFFECT FROM THE EARTHQUAKE. THE ZOCALO IS APPARENTLY BEING USED AS A STAGING AREA FOR MILITARY TROOPS, FOR BUSES USED IN TRANSPORTING WORKERS, AND FOR HEAVY TRUCKS FOR HAULING DEBRIS. SOME 40 ARMY PERSONNEL-TRANSPORT TRUCKS, EACH WITH 20-30 TROOPS, WERE PARKED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ZOCALO ALONG WITH 4 OR 5 SUPPORT VEHICLES. EMPTY BUSES PARKED IN FRONT OF THE CATHEDRAL AND THEN APPARENTLY RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS AND DEPARTED. AT ONE TIME SOME 12 BUSES WERE LINED UP IN FRONT OF THE

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CATHEDRAL. A CONVOY OF 7 OR 8 TRUCKS FILLED UP ANOTHER SIDE OF THE PLAZA AND LEFT AT ONE TIME.

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--- BUSINESSES IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA

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18. ALL SHOPS AND OFFICES BETWEEN BELLAS ARTES AND THE ZOCALO APPEARED TO BE CLOSED FRIDAY AFTERNOON. SCATTERED BUILDINGS IN THE AREA HAD RECEIVED SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE. EMBASSY OFFICERS SPOKE TO A SENIOR OFFICIAL FROM THE BANCO NACIONAL DE MEXICO (BANAMEX) OFFICE ON MADERO STREET WHO WAS LOOKING OVER THE AREA. THE BANAMEX OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE TWO BANAMEX HEADQUARTERS BUILDINGS, ONE ON MADERO AND THE OTHER ON ISABEL LA CATOLICA, WERE IN GOOD SHAPE BUT THE LARGE OFFICE ON 20 DE NOVIEMBRE HAD SUFFERED SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE. HE EXPECTED BANAMEX TO BE ABLE TO RESUME MOST OPERATIONS ON MONDAY. HE DID NOT FEEL THAT THE EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO MEXICAN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS WOULD INHIBIT THE BANKS' TRANSACTIONS. HE ALSO SAID THAT EVEN BEFORE THE EARTHQUAKE HIS BANK HAD VIRTUALLY NO FUNDS FOR LENDING TO PRIVATE BUSINESSES. HE DID NOT EXPECT HIS BANK TO BE ABLE TO DO MUCH LENDING NOW TO BUSINESSES TO REBUILD AND RECOVER FROM THE QUAKE.

BANCO DE MEXICO

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19. (U) THE BANCO DE MEXICO COMPLEX AT BELLAS ARTES ON JUAREZ AVENUE APPEARS TO BE IN RELATIVELY GOOD SHAPE. ALL BUILDINGS SEEM TO BE INTACT. NO PERSONNEL WERE IN THEIR OFFICES BUT A GUARD AT ONE OF THE BUILDINGS EXPECTED HIS BUILDING TO BE OPEN ON MONDAY.

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20. OFFICER'S IMPRESSIONS

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--- TWO COLONIAS

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EMBOFF REVIEWING DAMAGE IN THE COLONIAS OF CONDESA AND ROMA SAW AMPLE SUPPLIES OF PERSONNEL WORKING ON FALLEN BUILDINGS. OTHER PEOPLE WERE RESTING AND IT APPEARED THAT SHIFTS HAD BEEN ORGANIZED. MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE EVIDENT AS GUARDS AND COMMUNICATIONS LINK. THERE SEEMED TO BE ENOUGH PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL AMONG THE VOLUNTEERS. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE EMBOFF WAS STRUCK BY THE ALMOST EXCLUSIVE USE OF MANUAL LABOR AND HAND TOOLS BEING USED AT SITES OF COLLAPSED BUILDINGS. LITTLE MECHANICAL OR HEAVY EQUIPMENT WAS IN EVIDENCE. MANY YOUNG PEOPLE, PROBABLY BECAUSE SCHOOLS HAD BEEN CLOSED, WERE IN THE STREETS HELPING TO DIRECT TRAFFIC AND MAN BARRICADES ERECTED TO KEEP SIGHTSEERS FROM INTERFERING WITH RESCUE OPERATIONS. EMBOFF DID NOT ENCOUNTER ANY OFFENSIVE ODORS WHLD SUGGEST GAS LEAKS OR DEATH IN THE AREAS VISITED. GAVIN

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19456 230007Z
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UNCLAS MEXICO 19456

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, OPDC, MX
SUBJECT: DISASTER ASSISTANCE: MSHA CAPABILITIES

REF: (A) STATE 291469; (B) MEXICO 19296

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES QUICK RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR
INFO CONCERNING EQUIPMENT/TECHNOLOGY FOR SEARCHING FOR
PEOPLE IN UNDERGROUND SITUATIONS. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER,
THAT EQUIPMENT DESCRIBED IS LESS SUITABLE FOR MEXICO
CITY CONDITIONS AND THAT TRAINED DOGS ALREADY ON THE
SCENE OFFER A BETTER ALTERNATIVE. (DRAFTED:CAKENNEDY)
GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19457 230005Z
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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4017

UNCLAS MEXICO 19457

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SENV, MX
SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE DATA

REF: GOLDEN 5757

1. UNAM PROVIDES ADDITIONAL DATA.

2. SEPT. 19--UNM EP160738 EP163922 ET164647.5
ET183021 EP230003.5

SEPT. 20--UNM EP033548 EP034331.5 EP065459 EP073916.5
EP081545.5 EP090341.5 EP125844 EP192301.5 EP193059.5
IP200426

SEPT. 21--UNM IP013801.5 IP022819 IP025333 IP30708
IP032508.7 IP033133.5 IPO42031 IP044146.3 IP124043.5
IP134022

SEPT. 19--IIC (COYOTEPEC) E155143.5 E160734.5 E163923
E164648 E183018 E230004.5

SEPT. 20--IIC E033547.5 E034330 E065457 E073913.5
E081545 E090341 E125842.5 E192304.5 E193057.5

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19457 230005Z

SEPT. 21--IIC IP132305 IP133101.5 IP013802.5

SEPT. 19--III (IGUALA) EP155125.5 EP160720 EP163906
EP164645 EP183004 EP225953.5

SEPT. 20--III IP033534.5 IP034316.5 IP065445 IP073901
EP081530 EP090324 EP090324 EP125829 EP192245
EP193044.5 EP193046 EP192245.5 EP200415.7 IPO13750
(DRAFTED: SSOTO) GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE INFORMATION CENTER GOLDEN COL.**RELEASED IN FULL**

UNCLAS MEXICO 19467

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 35: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE1. ALL MEXICO CITY DAILIES AND TV-RADIO BROADCASTERS
CONTINUE 09/22 TO GIVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO THE
EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY EFFORTS. TV AND RADIO STATIONS HAVE
RESUMED THEIR REGULAR PROGRAMMING. FOLLOWING ARE OTHER
EARTHQUAKE-RELATED ITEMS AS REPORTED BY THE MEXICAN
MEDIA:2. PRESIDENT MIGUEL DE LA MADRID CANCELLED HIS
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ANNOUNCED APPEARANCE AT UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY. FOREIGN MINISTER BERNARDO SEPULVEDA WILL
SPEAK ON HIS BEHALF.3. THE OFFICIAL CASUALTIES TOLL REPORTED LAST NIGHT BY
MEXICO CITY'S MAYOR, RAMON AGUIRRE, IS 1641 DEAD AND
6000 INJURED. IT IS BELIEVED THAT 2000 PERSONS MIGHT
STILL BE TRAPPED IN COLLAPSED BUILDINGS, THE ESTIMATE OF
HOMELES WAS 5000 PERSONS. THE OFFICIAL NUMBER OF
COLLAPSED BUILDINGS IS 411. HOWEVER, 760 BUILDINGS ARE**REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer**

REPORTED TO BE SERIOUSLY DAMAGED, ALTHOUGH AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS "REPAIRABLE." EL HERALDO DE MEXICO NEWSPAPER SAYS THAT A ROUGH ESTIMATE SHOULD PLACE THE DEATH TOLL ABOVE THE 10,000 FIGURE. IT NOTES THAT THE MORE DEVASTATED AREAS ARE AROUND DOWNTOWN MEXICO CITY AND ITS IMMEDIATE, HEAVILY-POPULATED AND LOW-INCOME SURROUNDINGS.

4. SOME DAILIES ALSO REPORT ON THE SITUATION IN THE AFFECTED STATES (COLIMA, GUERRERO, JALISCO, MEXICO AND MICHOACAN), MENTIONING A TOTAL OF 45 DEAD, 530 INJURED, AND 550 COLLAPSED HOUSES. IT IS ALSO REPORTED THAT IN THE STATE OF GUERRERO, IXTAPA-ZIHUATANEJO IS THE MOST AFFECTED TOURIST RESORT, ALTHOUGH NO CASUALTIES OF FOREIGN TOURISTS ARE REPORTED.

5. ALL MEDIA REPORTS HIGHLIGHT THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE, BOTH OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE, HAS STARTED TO ARRIVE, AND ALSO INFORM OF THE ANNOUNCED 09/23 VISIT OF MRS. REAGAN. MEDIA ATTENTION HAS ALSO FOCUSED ON OTHER COUNTRIES' MATERIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY THAT COMING FROM FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND. THE MEDIA HAS ALSO HIGHLIGHTED THE MESSAGES OF THE KING OF SPAIN, AND THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 MEXICO 19467 230007Z

VISITS TO MEXICO OF SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN STATE LEADERS.

6. EXCELSIOR (LEFTIST-NATIONALISTIC) REPORTS THAT THE MEXICAN DEFENSE SECRETARIAT HAS AUTHORIZED FREE LANDING FOR ALL FOREIGN AIRCRAFTS ARRIVING AT MEXICO WITH ASSISTANCE.

7. MOST DAILIES PUBLISH LISTS OF INJURED PERSONS AT THE MAIN HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY CENTERS, AND OF THE PERSONS REGISTERED AT MAJOR COLLAPSED HOTELS.

8. EL NACIONAL (OFFICIAL) CARRIES A CUBAN "PRENSA LATINA" STORY ON THE PERUVIAN AND CUBAN MEDIA REJECTION OF THE ALLEGED IMF DECISION TO SUSPEND CREDIT TO MEXICO. THE PAPER ALSO CARRIES AN IMF DENIAL OF SUCH STORY. GAVIN

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19469 230011Z
ACTION OES-09

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 DINT-05 SSO-00 /015 W
-----125470 230106Z /72

O 222143Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE INFO SVC GOLDEN CO IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4027

UNCLAS MEXICO 19469

RELEASED IN FULL

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SENV, MX
SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE DATA

REF: GOLDEN 5757

1. UNAM PROVIDES ADDITIONAL DATA.

2. SEP 21 UNM IP134020.7 IP144542 IP203938.5 IP211018.5
SEP 22 UNM IP013312.0 IP062027.5 IP073119.0 IP074958.7
-- IP75358.3 IP095434.5 IP110837.U
SEP 21 III (IGUALA) IP165732.0 IP172507.0 IP203923.5
-- IP210958.0 IP222222.5 IP224425.0 IP223154.5
SEP 22 III IP013255.0 IP073102.3 IP074939.0 IP095420.0
-- IP110725.U IP145734.5

3. SEVERAL AFTERSHOCKS HAVE FOLLOWED MAJOR QUAKE OF SEP
19 WHICH WAS MEASURED WITH MAGNITUDE OF 7.8 ON RICHTER
SCALE WITH HYPOCENTER LOCATED AT COORDINATES 17.6N
102.5W. HOWEVER, UNAM ONLY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT
AFTERSHOCKS IN EXCESS OF 3 ON RICHTER SCALE. UP TO 12
NOON MEX CITY TIME SEP 22, 38 AFTERSHOCKS HAVE BEEN
RECORDED. THE STRONGEST AFTERSHOCK WAS RECORDED AT 1938
HOURS MEXICO CITY TIME ON SEP 20 WITH MAGNITUDE OF 6.8 ON
RICHTER SCALE, HYPOCENTER LOCATED AT COORDINATES 17.4N
102.0W. REST OF AFTERSHOCKS HAVE REGISTERED BETWEEN 3.5
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TO 5.5 ON THE RICHTER SCALE. (SSOTO) GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19470 230000Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
EB-08 DINT-05 MMO-01 IO-16 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00
SY-06 MED-07 HA-08 PA-02 PER-03 FEMA-02 HHS-06
INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-01 SAF-01 CA-02 ANAE-00 FBO-06
OES-09 SYE-00 USIE-00 OC-02 SR-06 PLE-02 PRS-01
SLPD-01 /112 W

-----125332 230034Z /72

O 222159Z SEP 85 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4028
INFO DIA WASH DC NIACT IMMEDIATE
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CMC WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
CSAF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
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UNCLAS MEXICO 19470

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 36 - MEXICO EARTHQUAKE

1. PRESS REPORTS INDICATED THE ARRIVAL OF VARIOUS
FOREIGN RESCUE ASSISTANCE TEAMS IN MEXICO, INCLUDING
THAT FROM THE UNITED STATES (COMPLETE WITH RESCUE DOGS).
AMONG THESE REPORTS WERE THE ARRIVAL OF RESCUE TEAMS
FROM FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND ON SEPTEMBER 21, ALSO
COMPLETE WITH DOGS, WHICH WERE PUT TO WORK IMMEDIATELY
SNIFFING THROUGH THE RUBBLE.

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2. DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT IS NOW MORE THAN 72 HOURS
SINCE THE FIRST QUAKE AND THAT HOPE FOR FINDING
SURVIVORS AMID THE RUBBLE IS THEREFORE STARTING TO FADE,
THERE ARE CONTINUING REPORTS OF MIRACULOUS DISCOVERY
OF SURVIVORS UNDER COLLAPSED BUILDINGS. THUS, FOR
EXAMPLE, TWO SWISS WOMEN WERE REPORTEDLY FOUND ALIVE
EARLY THIS MORNING WITH RELATIVELY MINOR INJURIES
UNDER THE DEBRIS OF THE HOTEL ROMANO WHICH HAD
COLLAPSED IN THE FIRST QUAKE, BY RESCUE DOGS FLOWN IN
YESTERDAY WITH THE ISASTER RELIEF TEAM. THE

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PAGE 01 GUADAL 03900 232252Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
EB-08 DODE-00 IO-16 NSAE-00 HA-08 PA-02 HHS-06
OCS-06 CA-02 USIE-00 SR-06 PRS-01 SLPD-01 /067 W
-----172724 232333Z /63

P R 231600Z SEP 85
FM AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9129
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS GUADALAJARA 3900
E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: SENV, CASC, MX

SUBJECT: DISASTER: EARTHQUAKE IN MEXICO

1. FOLLOWING MESSAGE BEING RETRANSMITTED.
2. TWENTY-FOUR HOURS FOLLOWING SOUTHERN MEXICO'S DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE, THERE ARE STILL NO REPORTS OF INJURY OR DEATH OF U.S. CITIZENS WITHIN GUADALAJARA'S CONSULAR DISTRICT. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE QUAKE THE CONSUL GENERAL CALLED ON THE SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF JALISCO AND BY 11:00 A.M., HAD RECEIVED A REPORT CONCERNING ESTIMATED DAMAGE AND NUMBER OF CASUALTIES WITHIN THE 134 MUNICIPALITIES. MAJOR STRUCTURAL DAMAGE AND HUMAN INJURY CENTERED AROUND CIUDAD GUZMAN, LOCATED SOME 75 MILES SOUTH OF GUADALAJARA. TWENTY-THREE PERSONS WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED IN THIS AREA AND APPROXIMATELY 300 SUFFERED INJURIES. FIFTEEN OF THE MORE SERIOUSLY INJURED WERE EVACUATED TO HOSPITAL FACILITIES IN GUADALAJARA, THE MAJORITY WAS CRUSHED PELVISES OR SEVERE BURNS.
3. AFTER OFFERING CONDOLENCES, CONSUL GENERAL SAID HE FELT CERTAIN THAT OUR CHARGE IN MEXICO HAD ALREADY APPROACHED THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TO OFFER APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE. HE ADDED THAT WHILE U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE IN SUCH CASES IS CARRIED OUT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, HE WOULD, OF COURSE, DO ANYTHING HE COULD TO ASSIST LOCAL AUTHORITIES.
4. ON HIS RETURN FROM AN INSPECTION TRIP VIA HELICOPTER,

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PAGE 02 GUADAL 03900 232252Z

GOVERNOR CALLED TO THANK THE CONSUL GENERAL. THE GOVERNOR SAID THE EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BUILDINGS IN CIUDAD GUZMAN WAS EXACERBATED BY THE RECENT HEAVY RAINS ACTING ON STRUCTURES THAT ARE BASICALLY OF ADOBE CONSTRUCTIONS. HE FELT THAT RECONSTRUCTION WOULD COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY BUT BE LIMITED TO THE AVAILABILITY OF ADOBE AND BRICK BUILDING MATERIALS.
MOREFIELD

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19476 230034Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
EB-08 DINT-05 MMO-01 IO-16 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00
SY-06 HA-08 PA-02 PER-03 FEMA-02 HHS-06 INRE-00
OCS-06 FDRE-01 SAF-01 CA-02 FBO-06 OES-09 SYE-00
USIE-00 OC-02 SR-06 PLE-02 PRS-01 SLPD-01 /105 W
-----125705 230129Z /72

O 230025Z SEP 85 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4037
DIA WASH DC NIACT IMMEDIATE
CNO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
CMC WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
CSAF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE INFORMATION CENTER GOLDEN COL

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UNCLAS MEXICO 19476

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 36: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE

-
FOLLOWING THE MAJOR EARTHQUAKE OF SEPTEMBER 19, WHICH WAS
MEASURED WITH A MAGNITUDE OF 7.8 ON THE RICHTER SCALE,
THERE HAVE BEEN VARIOUS AFTERSHOCKS, WITH THE STRONGEST
RECORDED AT 7:30 P.M. MEXICO CITY TIME ON SEPTEMBER 20
WITH A MAGNITUDE ACCORDING TO UNAM OF 6.8 ON THE RICHTER
SCALE. (THE SCIENCE ADVISOR'S OFFICE REPORTS, HOWEVER,
THAT THE U.S. NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE CENTER IN GOLDEN,
COLORADO, CALIBRATED THE SEPTEMBER 20 AFTERSHOCK AT 7.3
ON THE RICHTER SCALE.) ACCORDING TO UNAM, UP UNTIL 12
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19476 230034Z

NOON ON SEPTEMBER 22 SOME 38 AFTERSHOCKS IN EXCESS OF
3 ON THE RICHTER SCALE HAVE BEEN RECORDED FOLLOWING THE
SEPTEMBER 19 EARTHQUAKE. (UNAM ONLY COUNTS AFTERSHOCKS
IN EXCESS OF 3 ON THE RICHTER SCALE.) EXCEPT FOR THE
MAJOR SEPTEMBER 20 AFTERSHOCK, ALL OTHERS HAVE RANGED
FROM 3 TO 5.5 ON THE RICHTER SCALE, IN A RANGE WHERE THEY
HAVE NOT CAUSED FURTHER SIGNIFICANT DAMAGWHERE
THEY HAVE USUALLY NOT BEEN FELT NOR NOTICED BY MOST OF
THE GENERAL PUBLIC. GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19481 230042Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 SS-00 DINT-05 NSCE-00
NSF-02 COME-00 SSO-00 PA-02 OES-09 USIE-00 PRS-01
/020 W

-----125760 230139Z /66

O 230034Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4042
INFO NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE INFO SVC GOLDEN CO

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19481

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SENV, MX
SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE DATA

1. SEISMOLOGICAL ACTIVITY - SUMMARY OF EVENTS DERIVED
FROM DATA REPORTED FROM UNAM SEISMO SECTION.

2. SEPT. 19--7:19AM (LOCAL TIME)- MAJOR QUAKE.
MAGNITUDE AND EPICENTER FIRST REPORTED AS 6.8 ON RICHTER
SCALE AND COORDINATES OF 16.5N - 103W. THESE VALUES
LATER REVISED TO READ MAGNITUDE OF 7.8 ON RICHTER SCALE
AND COORDINATES OF EPICENTER CHANGED TO 17.6N - 102.5W,
OR APPROXIMATELY 50 KM IN FRONT OF MOUTH OF RIO BALSAS
AND IN COASTAL WATERS OFF GUERRERO-MICHOACAN STATE LINE.
INTENSITY FELT IN MEXICO CITY WAS IN ORDER OF 8 ON THE
MERCALLI SCALE.

SEPT. 20--12 NOON (LOCAL TIME) SEVERAL AFTERSHOCKS HAVE
BEEN RECORDED BUT UNAM ONLY TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION
AFTERSHOCKS THAT EXCEED 3 ON RICHTER SCALE. FIFTEEN
AFTERSHOCKS VARYING IN MAGNITUDE FROM 3.5 TO 4.5 RECORDED
SINCE SEPT 19 AT 7:19 AM.

SEPT. 20--7:38 PM (LOCAL TIME) MAJOR AFTER-SHOCK
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RECORDED. MAGNITUDE FIRST REPORTED AS 6.5 ON RICHTER
SCALE BUT LATER REVISED TO 6.8. EPICENTER REPORTED TO BE
AT COORDINATES 17.4N - 102.0W. FELT IN MEXICO CITY WITH
INTENSITY OF 5.6 ON THE MERCALLI SCALE.

SEPT. 21--NOON (LOCAL TIME) ADDITIONAL 13 AFTERSHOCKS
RECORDED SINCE SEPT. 20 NOON MEXICO CITY TIME. STRONGEST
ONE WAS AT 7:38 PM ON SEPT. 20 (MENTIONED ABOVE). THE
OTHER TWELVE VARIED IN MAGNITUDE FROM 3.5 TO 5.5 ON THE
RICHTER SCALE. (TOTAL OF 28 AFTERSHOCKS SIOR

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QUAKE)

SEPT. 22 NOON (LOCAL TIME) ADDITIONAL 10 AFTERSHOCKS
RECORDED SINCE NOON OF SEPT. 21. MAGNITUDE VARIED FROM 3
TO 5 ON THE RICHTER SCALE. (TOTAL OF 38 AFTERSHOCKS
SINCE MAJOR QUAKE) (DRAFTED: SSOTO) GAVIN

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19483 230258Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 EUR-00 IO-16 SSO-00 OCS-06
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-----126726 230305Z /66

O 230257Z SEP 85 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4044
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASH DC NIACT IMMEDIATE
CNO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
CMC WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
CSAF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
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UNCLAS MEXICO 19483

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN REQUEST TO CONTACT EMBASSY IN

-- MEXICO CITY

REF: STATE 290954

1. ON REQUEST OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AMEMBASSY IN
MEXICO CONTACTED ROMANIAN EMBASSY. THEY SAID EMBASSY
SUFFERED NO DAMAGE AND PERSONNEL IS DOING FINE. PLEASE
ADVISE ROMANIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON AND USMISSION NEW
YORK. GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19485 240851Z
ACTION OCS-06

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
EB-08 H-01 IO-16 NSCE-00 ARA-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00
HA-08 L-03 PM-10 PA-02 OMB-01 HHS-06 INRE-00
FDRE-00 CA-02 ANAE-00 USIE-00 SP-02 SR-06 SNP-01
PRS-01 SPD-01 /085 W

-----214407 240858Z /16

O 230348Z SEP 85 ZFF4 ZDK CTG 3625

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4045

DIA WASH DC NIACT IMMEDIATE

RELEASED IN FULL

CNO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

CMC WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

CSAF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE INFORMATION CENTER GOLDEN COL.

UNCLAS MEXICO 19485

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX

SUBJECT: SITREP 37 - MEXICO EARTHQUAKE--MEDIA REPORTS ON

- REAGAN-DLM TELECON

1. TV AND RADIO 09/22 LATE AFTERNOON BROADCASTS REPORT ON PRESIDENTS REAGAN-DE LA MADRID TELEPHONE CONVERSATION TODAY, DURING WHICH, IN A "CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY TONE," PRESIDENT REAGAN EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR MEXICO CITY'S ORDEAL AND REITERATED HIS OFFER OF ANY KIND OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED. IT WAS NOTED THAT AS A TOKEN OF THE SOLIDARITY OF THE U.S. PEOPLE WITH MEXICO, MRS. REAGAN WILL ARRIVE MONDAY FOR A VISIT, AND THAT SECURITY PERSONNEL AND CARS UNCLASSIFIED

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ARE ALSO ALREADY ON THEIR WAY.

2. DURING SUNDAY'S OPERATIONS, PERSONS CONTINUED TO BE RESCUED ALIVE FROM THE RUBBLE. GAVIN

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19486 01 OF 02 230713Z
ACTION OCS-06

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SSO-00 HA-08 L-03 PM-10 PA-02 OMB-01 INM-07
HHS-06 INRE-00 FDRE-01 CA-02 ANAE-00 USIE-00 SP-02
SR-06 SNP-01 PRS-01 SPD-01 /093 W
-----132042 230721Z /16

O 230712Z SEP 85 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4046
DIA WASH DC NIACT IMMEDIATE
CNO WASH DC NIACT IMMEDIATE
CMC WASH DC NIACT IMMEDIATE
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USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS NIACT IMMEDIATE
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 19486

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAD, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 38 - MEXICO EARTHQUAKE - U.S. ASSISTANCE
-- EFFORTS

1. AT AFTERNOON MEETING SEPTEMBER 22 OF AMBASSADOR WITH MISSION AND OFDA ASSISTANCE TEAM INVOLVED WITH EARTHQUAKE DISASTER RELIEF, FOLLOWING REPORTS, OBSERVATIONS, AND ASSESSMENTS OF OFFICIAL AMERICAN RELIEF EFFORTS TO DATE AND OF AREAS OF GREATEST NEED WERE CITED.
2. THE 18-PERSON OFDA TEAM HAS DIVIDED ITSELF INTO SEVERAL SMALL SUBGROUPS. DURING THEIR FIRST FULL DAY IN

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MEXICO THE MEMBERS OF THE TEAM VISITED SEVERAL OF THE WORST AFFECTED SITES IN THE CITY. THE VISITING TEAM WAS SOMEWHAT PLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO FIND THAT (1) THE MEXICAN RELIEF AND RESCUE EFFORT APPEARS TO BE RELATIVELY WELL ORGANIZED; (2) THE MEXICANS HAVE THE NECESSARY EXPERTISE; AND (3) THE MEXICANS SEEM TO HAVE ALREADY AVAILABLE HERE SUFFICIENT HEAVY EQUIPMENT. THE NEEDS OF THE MEXICANS SEEM TO BE SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF SMALL, E.G., OXYGEN BOTTLES.

3. THE TEAM CONCLUDED THAT IN THE HEALTH AREA THERE IS

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NO NEED FOR A FULL-BLOWN U.S. FIELD HOSPITAL, NOR IS THERE A NEED FOR DOCTORS, INASMUCH AS THE MEXICANS APPEAR TO HAVE SUFFICIENT QUALIFIED DOCTORS TO HANDLE THIS EMERGENCY. IN TERMS OF PUBLIC HEALTH THERE HAS NOT BEEN, AS OF YET, ANY PROBLEM OF DISEASE, AND MEDICAL PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN MOSTLY TRAUMA-RELATED. WATER AND WATER PURIFICATION IS NOT YET A SUBSTANTIAL PROBLEM, BUT COULD WELL BECOME ONE WITHIN A MATTER OF DAYS.

4. A REPORT FROM THE U.S. DEMOLITION EXPERTS INDICATED THAT THE MEXICAN NAVY IN ITS RESCUE AND DEMOLITION EFFORTS REQUIRES SMALL THINGS SUCH AS HAND TOOLS, AND NOT HEAVY EQUIPMENT. THEY NEED SUCH ITEMS AS CEMENT CUTTING TOOLS, ACELYTINE TORCHES, AND PNEUMATIC TOOLS. THEY ALSO HAVE A NEED FOR NIGHTTIME LIGHTING EQUIPMENT, INASMUCH AS AT MANY OF THE SITES WHERE RESCUE WORKERS ARE SEEKING TO REMOVE RUBBLE FROM COLLAPSED BUILDINGS, RESCUE WORK STOPS OR DIMINISHES SUBSTANTIALLY AT NIGHT BECAUSE THERE IS INSUFFICIENT LIGHTING EQUIPMENT ON HAND TO PURSUE THE WORK ON A ROUND-THE-CLOCK BASIS.

5. THE TEAM FOUND THAT THE MEXICANS ALSO DO NOT NEED
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AMERICAN SUPERVISION, EXCEPT IN THE DEMOLITION AREA (WHERE THE MEXICANS HAVE LITTLE EXPERIENCE). DEMOLITION EXPERTS FOUND THAT THERE ARE NO DEMOLITION "SHOOTERS" IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY EXPERT IN BRINGING DOWN BUILDINGS WITH EXPLOSIVES. THE DEMOLITION EXPERTS ESTIMATE THAT THERE ARE SOME 900 BUILDINGS IN MEXICO WHICH WILL NEED TO BE DEMOLISHED. THEY STRESSED THAT DEMOLITION BY EXPLOSIVES IS ONLY EFFICIENT WHEN DEALING WITH BUILDINGS OVER FIVE STORIES HIGH. THEY ALSO STRESSED THAT TO DEMOLISH A BUILDING BY EXPLOSIVES TAKES 2-3 DAYS OF PREPARATION, SOMETHING WHICH WILL MAKE THE TASK OF DEMOLISHING NUMEROUS BUILDINGS BY EXPLOSIVES A SOMEWHAT LONGER-TERM PROPOSITION, EVENHE TWO DEMOLITION CREWS ALREADY HERE AND ADDITIONAL CREWS WHICH ARE BEING REQUESTED. IT WAS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE MINE EQUIPMENT AND EXPERTS ORIGINALLY REQUESTED FROM WASHINGTON ARE NO LONGER NEEDED.

6. A REPORT ON THE FIRE-FIGHTING HELICOPTERS WHICH ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY INDICATED THAT THEIR FIRE-FIGHTING CAPABILITIES WERE NO LONGER REQUIRED BY THE TIME THEY ARRIVED BECAUSE ALL THE FIRES IN THE CITY HAD BEEN EXTINGUISHED OR BURNED THEMSELVES OUT. IT WAS POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE HELICOPTERS AND THE PERSONNEL WHICH CAME WITH THEM ARE BEING USED BY THE MEXICAN ARMED FORCES IN THE RESCUE EFFORT FOR OTHER PURPOSES, PRIMARILY TO ENHANCE A BADLY NEEDED TRANSPORT CAPABILITY FOR RESCUE EFFORTS UNDERWAY AROUND THE CITY.

7. IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE JUAREZ HOSPITAL, WHICH COLLAPSED IN THE SECOND QUAKE, STILL HAS SEVERAL HUNDRED PERSONS TRAPPED THERE AND THAT THERE IS STILL HOPE OF BEING ABLE TO REACH THEM AND GET SOME OF THE TRAPPED PEOPLE OUT OF THERE ALIVE. IT WAS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE CONFIRMED AMERICAN DEAD STILL REMAIN THREE, BUT THAT THE

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ACTION OCS-06

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00
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SSO-00 HA-08 L-03 PM-10 PA-02 OMB-01 INM-07
HHS-06 INRE-00 FDRE-01 CA-02 ANAE-00 USIE-00 SP-02
SR-06 SNP-01 PRS-01 SLPD-01 SPD-01 /094 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
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NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE INFORMATION CENTER GOLDEN COL

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 MEXICO 19486

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 38 - MEXICO EARTHQUAKE - U.S. ASSISTANCE

EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FROM RELATIVES IN THE U.S. NAMES OF TEN OTHER AMERICANS WHO ARE STILL MISSING AND WHOM U.S. RELATIVES BELIEVE WERE STAYING IN THE TOTALLY DESTROYED REGIS HOTEL (INCLUDING ONE YOUNG AMERICAN COUPLE, WHO WERE TRAVELLING WITH ANOTHER AMERICAN COUPLE WHO MIRACULOUSLY ESCAPED BUT PHYSICALLY SAW THE ROOF AND REST OF THE HOTEL COLLAPSE ON THEIR YOUNG FRIENDS' HEADS). IT

WAS ALSO REPORTED THAT SOME 5,000 RESIDENT AMERICANS AND
TOURISTS HAVE AVAILED THEMSELVES OF THE EMBASSY SERVICE
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TO NOTIFY THEIR RELATIVES IN THE U.S. THAT THEY ARE SAFE.

-
8. IT WAS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE U.S. "SNAKEMEN" WITH
THEIR SUCTION DEVICE UTILIZED IN RESCUE WORK HAVE PROVED
TO BE QUITE SUCCESSFUL AND ALSO DRAWN FAVORABLE PRESS AND
MEDIA ATTENTION. SOME BRITISH EXPERTS HAVE TODAY TEAMED
UP WITH THE U.S. "SNAKEMEN." THE FRENCHISS
EXPERTS SENT BY THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS ALSO APPEAR
TO HAVE TEAMED UP WITH EACH OTHER IN THEIR RESCUE EFFORTS.
-

9. COMMENT. THIS CABLE IS NOT INTENDED AS A FORMAL
IDENTIFICATION OF RELIEF NEEDS. ANY REQUEST ON RELIEF
NEEDS WILL BE CONSIDERED ON THE BASIS OF THE ABOVE
INFORMATION AND WHAT WE DEVELOP FROM OTHER SOURCES. SUCH
REQUESTS WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF SEPTELS. END COMMENT.
(DRAFTED: LAB:JGWYNN) GAVIN

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 EB-08
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DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 39, MEXICO EARTHQUAKE - FIRST DAY OF U.S.
-- SEISMIC TEAM AND THEIR DOGS

1. DURING THE FIRST DAY ON THE JOB IN MEXICO (I.E.,
SEPTEMBER 22) OF THE U.S. SEISMIC TEAM AND THEIR DOGS,
THE TEAM WENT TO THE SITES OF SIX COLLAPSED BUILDINGS,
ONE OF THEM A HOSPITAL. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, THE
CROWDS, NOISE, AND CONFUSION AT EACH SITE MADE IT
DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, FOR THE TEAM TO WORK
EFFECTIVELY ON THEIR FIRST DAY. AT THE BEGINNING,
CONTINUOUS INTERRUPTIONS BY THE PRESS DELAYED THE TEAM IN
THEIR EFFORTS TO GET SET UP. THERE WAS A DEMONSTRATED
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INADEQUACY OF CROWD/PRESS CONTROL ON THE PART OF THE
MEXICAN SPONSORS AT THE SITES. AS A RESULT THE EMBASSY
HAS SPOKEN WITH THE MEXICAN SPONSORS FROM THE D.F. PUBLIC
WORKS DEPARTMENT ABOUT THE NEED FOR THE SEISMIC TEAM TO
HAVE QUIET WHILE THE TEAM USES ITS SOUNDING EQUIPMENT,
AND HAS SUGGESTED THAT THEIR EFFORTS WILL BE WASTED IF
PERIODS OF QUIET ARE IMPOSSIBLE. THE TEAM ITSELF HAS
ALSO INDICATED PY TO THE EMBASSY THAT IF THEIR
EQUIPMENT CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO WORK BECAUSE THE PEOPLE AT
THE SITES WILL NOT BE QUIET THEY ARE PREPARED TO RETURN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

TO THE U.S.

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2. ANOTHER PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED BY THE TEAM WAS THAT THEY WERE TAKEN TO SITES WHICH HAD RELATIVELY FEW SUSPECTED PERSONS OR BODIES TRAPPED. AT THE FIRST SITE, THE SEISMIC TEAM TESTED THEIR EQUIPMENT, BUT THE RESULTS WERE NEGATIVE AND NO EVIDENCE OF HUMAN LIFE WAS FOUND. AT THE SECOND SITE THE SEISMIC TEAM DID NOT FIND ANYONE, BUT TWO BODIES WERE FOUND SHORTLY AFTER THE TEAM DEPARTED THE SITE. IT IS THEREFORE UNCLEAR WHETHER OR NOT THE AMERICAN DOG HANDLERS AND THEIR DOGS MAY HAVE LED THE MEXICANS TO SUBSEQUENTLY TURN UP THE TWO BODIES. THE TEAM, HOWEVER, DID SUCCESSFULLY TEST ITS TV EQUIPMENT AT THIS SITE. AT THE THIRD SITE THE TEAM FOUND TOO MUCH CHAOS, NOISE AND CONFUSION TO WORK EFFECTIVELY AND THEREFORE LEFT THE SITE WITHOUT DOING ANY WORK. AT THE FOURTH SITE THE TEAM UPON ARRIVAL WAS INFORMED THAT THE FRENCH RESCUE TEAM AND THEIR DOGS HAD ALREADY BEEN THERE AND FOUND NOTHING, SO THE AMERICAN TEAM DID NOT EXAMINE THAT SITE. AT THE FIFTH SITE THE TEAM WAS TOLD ON ARRIVAL THAT ALL THE PEOPLE BELIEVED TO BE BURIED THERE WERE BELIEVED TO BE DEAD AND THAT THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES DID NOT WANT THE TEAM WASTING THEIR TIME ON SITES WHERE
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THERE WAS NO HOPE OF FINDING PERSONS ALIVE, SO THE TEAM LEFT AND WENT ON TO THE SIXTH SITE. AT THE SIXTH SITE, THAT OF THE HOSPITAL, THE SITUATION WAS CONFUSED. THE TEAM WAS TOLD THAT THE FRENCH RESCUE TEAM HAD BEEN THERE BEFORE THEM AND HAD FOUND SIX PEOPLE ALIVE, BUT WERE ALSO TOLD THAT THE ARMY WAS READY TO BULLDOZE THE SITE. THERE WAS ALSO A GREAT DEAL OF NOISE AND CONFUSION. THE TEAM ULTIMATELY LEFT THE HOSPITAL SITE WITHOUT HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO USE EITHER ITS DOGS OR ITS EQUIPMENT THERE.

-
3. ON THE NIGHT OF SR 22, IN ORDER TO AVOID NOISE AND CROWDS, THE TEAM PLANNED TO GO BACK BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 5:00 A.M. TO THE COLLAPSED NUEVO LEON BUILDING IN TLATELOLCO, ONE OF THE MAJOR COLLAPSED BUILDINGS WHERE A LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONS HAD BEEN BURIED IN THE RUBBLE AND THE THIRD SITE THEY HAD VISITED IN THE MORNING (WHERE THEY HAD BEEN UNABLE TO WORK BECAUSE OF THE CONFUSION AND NOISE).

-
4. AFTER THE ABOVE WAS DRAFTED, LATE IN THE DAY AND EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 22 THE DOGS WERE USED MUCH MORE EFFECTIVELY. WILL PROVIDE FURTHER REPORT TOMORROW.
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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19424 250409Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 OIC-02
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UNCLAS MEXICO 19424

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAD, AMGT, USIA, MX

SUBJECT: SITREP 34: EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE IN ZONE OF

-- EPICENTER ON MEXICO'S WEST COAST

1. SUMMARY. A MEXICAN UNIVERSITY SEISMOLOGIST REPORTED TO THE EMBASSY THAT OF MEXICAN WEST COAST CITIES, LAZARO CARDENAS WAS HARDEST HIT WITH DAMAGE TO INDUSTRIAL PLANTS AND SEVERE DAMAGE TO HOTELS. IN IXTAPA, THE HOTELS SUFFERED ONLY MINOR DAMAGE AND THERE WERE ONLY LIMITED EFFECTS IN MANZANILLO.

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2. PROFESSOR LOMMITZ, A SEISMOLOGIST AT UNAM, CALLED THE EMBASSY TO GIVE HIS EVALUATION OF THE DAMAGE TO THE ZONE ENCOMPASSING THE EPICENTER OF THE EARTHQUAKE. HE WAS OUT IN THE AREA TODAY, IN HIS CESSNA, AND LANDED AT VARIOUS AREAS OF CONCERN ALONG THE WESTERN COSTAL AREA OF THE COUNTRY.

3. THE EPICENTER OF THE EARTHQUAKE HIT LAZARO CARDENAS, MICHOACAN, A TOWN WITH TWO MAIN INDUSTRIES, STEEL AND FERTILIZER. ONE OF THE PLANTS HAD BEEN ON FIRE BUT IS

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

NOW NO LORNING. THERE HAVE BEEN FIVE CONFIRMED DEATHS THERE--TWO IN A ROAD ACCIDENT - AND AT LEAST TWO IN THE PLAYA AZUL HOTEL WHICH WAS LEVELLED. MOST OF THE HOTELS IN THE TOWN HAVE COLLAPSED. THE GENERAL HOSPITAL IN LAZARO CARDENAS WAS BADLY DAMAGED BUT THE HOTEL DE SEGURO SOCIAL IS OPEN AND FUNCTIONING. THE ENTIRE CITY IS BEING CONTROLLED BY THE ARMY AND THERE APPEAR TO BE NO REPORTS OF LOOTING OR OTHER CRIMES BEING COMMITTED. THE TIDAL WAVE THAT STRUCK THE AREA AFTER THE QUAKE RANGED FROM TWO TO TWO AND ONE-HALF METERS IN HEIGHT.

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4. OVERALL, THE DAMAGE IS MUCH WORSE IN INLAND AREAS THAN ANY OF THE COASTAL TOWNS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF LAZARO CARDENAS. OF CITIES ON MEXICO'S WEST COAST, EYE WITNESS REPORTS HAVE CONFIRMED THAT ONLY LAZARO CARDENAS SUFFERED MAJOR DAMAGE.

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5. IXTAPA/ZIJUATANEJO. THE PROFESSOR CONFIRMED THE REPORTS OF DAMAGE TO THAT AREA. IN IXTAPA, THE FORD AGENCY WENT DOWN, BUT THE HOTELS SUFFERED ONLY MINOR DAMAGE AND SEEM TO BE STRUCTURALLY SOUND--ALL OF THE HOTELS IN THE AREA STILL HAVE THEIR WINDOWS IN PLACE. THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF MINOR DAMAGE TO PRIVATE

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DWELLINGS. IN ZIJUATANEJO, HE CONFIRMED THE REPORTS OF THREE HOTELS LEVELLED AND THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTE MUNICIPAL IN THE SAME CONDITION.

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6. PROFESSOR LOMMITZ ALSO CALLED AT MANZANILLO AND FOUND ONLY MINOR DAMAGE TO THAT AREA. DRAFTED BY J.P.FELT. GAVIN

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19425 230014Z
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EB-08 DINT-05 IO-16 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-08
PA-02 HHS-06 INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-01 CA-02 OES-09
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UNCLAS MEXICO 19425

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX

SUBJECT: SITREP 33 - MEXICO EARTHQUAKE - STATUS OF
INSTITUTIONS

CONACYT

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1. FINE, OPEN TODAY, NO MAJOR DAMAGE. THEY ARE HELPING
WITH THE EARTHQUAKE RELIEF, SO OFFICES ARE BUSY.

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SECRETARIA DE COMUNICACIONES Y TRANSPORTES

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2. SOME OFFICES SUCH AS THE SPECIAL PROJECTS (MORELOS
SATELLITE) OFFICE IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE CITY,
ARE OPEN, BUT THE MAIN HEADQUARTERS ON AV. UNIVERSIDAD
(WHERE THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE IS LOCATED) FELL, AND
THEY ARE LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO RELOCATE TO. THE
HEADQUARTERS BUILDING IS OBVIOUSLY CLOSED AND WILL BE
FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THE UNDAMAGED OFFICES ARE
OPEN TO BUSINESS.

-

3. THE MORELOS SATELLITE IS OPERATING AND IS ASSISTING

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

WITH COMMUNICATIONS, PARTICULARLY WITH TRANSMISSION OF TV PICTURES.

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THE UNAM

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4. THE "RECTORIA" SUSTAINED SOME SUPERFICIAL DAMAGE, BUT OTHERWISE, CD. UNIVERSITARIA IS ALRIGHT.

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5. THE UNAM IS CLOSED TO STUDENTS, PROFESSORMOST RESEARCHERS TODAY, BUT WILL BE OPEN AGAIN AS OF MONDAY.

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6. MOST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, SUCH AS THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC EXCHANGES, APPEAR TO BE CLOSED TODAY.

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SECRETARIA DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES

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7. MAIN BUILDING CLOSED TODAY AND LIKELY TO BE CLOSED ALL NEXT WEEK. HOWEVER, SRE IS OPERATING IN AUXILIARY QUARTERS.

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8. THE MAIN OFFICE ON CONSTITUYENTES IS OPEN TODAY WITH NO MAJOR DAMAGE REPORTED. IT HOUSES THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, THE SUB-SECRETARY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND THE SUB-SECRETARY OF HOUSING. THE SUB-SECRETARIAT OF ECOLOGY ON RIO ELBA IS CLOSED TODAY WITH THE OFFICES RECEIVING SOME DAMAGE. THE CONDITION OF THE BUILDING IS BEING ASSESSED BUT IT IS LIKELY THAT OFFICES WILL BE OPEN NEXT WEEK.

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PESCA

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9. ACTING RFA ATTEMPTED WITHOUT SUCCESS TO RAISE CONTACTS IN THE SECRETARIAT OF FISHERIES BY TELEPHONE, INCLUDING THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE. ACTING RFA AND EMBASSY SCIENCE COUNSELOR THEN DROVE TO THE SECRETARIAT HEADQUARTERS. THE BUILDING APPEARED UNDAMAGED FROM THE OUTSIDE BUT IT WAS CLOSED. THE STREET CONTAINING THE BUILDING IS ROPED OFF TO PERMIT RESCUE WORKERS EASIER ACCESS TO DAMAGED BUILDINGS IN THE SAME AREA. (TWO

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LARGE BUILDINGS ARE COMPLETELY OR PARTIALLY DOWN WITHIN ONE BLOCK OF THE SECRETARIAT HEADQUARTERS.) (DRAFTED: LAB:JGWYNN) GAVIN

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SY-06 MED-07 HA-08 PA-02 PER-03 FEMA-02 HHS-06
INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-01 SAF-01 CA-02 ANAE-00 FBO-06
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 19427

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX

SUBJECT: SITREP 32 - MEXICO CITY: AFTER THE 2ND

- EARTHQUAKE

1. SUMMARY. IN MUCH OF MEXICO CITY, VOLUNTEERS, VICTIMS, AND OFFICIAL CREWS WENT ABOUT THE LABORIOUS TASKS OF DIGGING OUT AFTER THE EARTHQUAKES. SOME HOSPITALS WERE EXTREMELY BUSY WHILE OTHERS WERE NOT. MANY AREAS OF THE CITY WERE EERILY CALM WITH PEOPLE GOING ABOUT BUSINESS AS THOUGH NOTHING HAD HAPPENED.

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2. EMBASSY OFFICERS, PRIMARILY FROM THE CONSULAR SECTION, VISITED SOME OF THE HEAVILY DAMAGED AREAS OF MEXICO CITY TODAY. THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THEIR INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

3. AVENIDA JUAREZ NEAR THE HOTEL REGIS

THE HOTEL REGIS HAS BEEN REDUCED TO A PILE OF RUBBLE WHICH IS STILL SMOULDERING MORE THAN 48 HOURS AFTER THE

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QUAKE. THE AREA IS CORDONED OFF BY POLICE AND MILITARY PERSONNEL AND SEVERAL LS AT THE SCENE STATED THAT BODIES WERE STILL BEING FOUND.

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WORKERS CONTINUED TO CLEAR DEBRIS AND SEARCH RUINS BUT AT NO HURRIED PACE. VOLUNTEERS WERE SORTING CLOTHES AND CONDUCTING CROWD CONTROL DUTIES. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, ONLY SMALL CROWDS TO CONTROL. SPECTATORS WERE FEW WHICH UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WAS A BLESSING. LITTLE HEAVY EQUIPMENT WAS SEEN IN THE AREA. TWO MEDIUM SIZED CRANES WERE AT THE SITE OF THE HOTEL REGIS BUT THEY WERE NOT OPERATING AT THE TIME OF THE VISIT. THERE WAS HEAVY MILITARY SECURITY IN THE AREA. LOOTING SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN KEPT TO A MINIMUM.

-
BEHIND THE LARGE CONASUPO ON JUAREZ THERE WAS A LARGE BUILDING THAT APPEARED TO BE A COMMERCIAL BUILDING COLLAPSED. PEOPLE WERE WATCHING FROM THE MONUMENT AT REFORMA NORTE JUAREZ AS THOUGH THEY WERE AT A SOCCER GAME.

-
IN THE STREETS, EVEN IN THE DAMAGED AREAS, MANY PEOPLE WERE GOING ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS AS THOUGH NOTHING HAD HAPPENED, EATING IN RESTAURANTS, STANDS, SHOPPING, IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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MARKETS ETC.

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4. CRUZ ROJA HOSPITAL IN POLANCO

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THE CRUZ ROJA WAS A HUB OF ACTIVITY. THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS DIRECTING TRAFFIC, FILLING BOXES WITH MEDICINES, AND COLLECTING CLOTHING. THE OPERATION WAS RUNNING SMOOTHLY. THEY HAVE A TELEX, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW IF THEY WERE RECEIVING MESSAGES FROM OUTSIDE MEXICO CITY, ONLY WITHIN MEXICO CITY, OR WHERE. THE DIRECTOR OF THE HOSPITAL TOLD US THAT THEY HAD SUFFICIENT SUPPLIES OF BLOOD AND MEDICINES. THE CR WAS BUSY, BUT HIGHLY EFFICIENT.

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5. TLATELOLCO

-
THE ENTIRE AREA OF TALL APARTMENT BUILDINGS SURROUNDING THE PLAZA OF THREE CULTURES WAS ROPED OFF AND APPARENTLY EVACUATED. THE SRE BUILDING WAS APPARENTLY UNDAMAGED EXCEPT FOR A DETACHED SECOND FLOOR WALKWAY CONNECTING THE BUILDING TO A SMALLER BUILDING BEHIND. MOST OF THE SURG BUILDINGS HAD BEEN, OR WERE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING EVACUATED. ALL TRAFFIC HAD BEEN STOPPED WITHIN A RADIUS OF APPROXIMATELY THREE BLOCKS. OF THE THREE CULTURES REPRESENTED IN THE PLAZA, THE TEST SUFFERED BY

FAR THE GREATEST DESTRUCTION. FROM A DISTANCE THE COLONIAL CATHEDRAL AND THE AZTEC RUINS APPEARED TO BE UNTOUCHED.

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6. CIUDAD UNIVERSITARIA

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THE UNIVERSITY AREA WAS CALM, UNDAMAGED. CLASSES HAD

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 MEXICO 19427

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 32 - MEXICO CITY: AFTER THE 2ND

BEEN SUSPENDED SO THAT THE TOUR WAS EASY TO COMPLETE.
NONE OF THE MURALS AT THE UNIVERSITY WERE DAMAGED. THERE
WERE WORKMEN IN THE COMPLEX DOING ROUTINE REPAIRS AND ONE
CONSTRUCTION GANG WORKING ON A NEW BUILDING AT THE
NORTHERN END OF THE GROUNDS. DRAFTED BY J.P.FELT.
GAVIN

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DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EIND, MX
SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION CAPABILITY

1. SUMMARY: MEXICO'S ORGANIZED CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SEEMS CAPABLE OF UNDERTAKING ANY GOM PROGRAMS TO RECONSTRUCT EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE. 95 PERCENT OF ALL CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS IS DOMESTICALLY AVAILABLE. THERE SHOULD BE NO SHORTAGE OF CEMENT, THE MAIN CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL USED IN MEXICO. THERE HAVING BEEN A LARGE EXCESS OF AVAILABLE COMMERCIAL SPACE PRIOR TO THE EARTHQUAKE, THERE IS SOME QUESTION AS TO HOW MUCH RECONSTRUCTION WILL BE UNDERTAKEN. AN EXISTING HOUSING SHORTAGE HAS BEEN MAGNIFIED HOWEVER AND IT IS LIKELY THAT ANY RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR NEW GOVERNMENT HOUSING PROJECTS. HOTELS ALREADY HAVE BEEN PROMISED "OPEN ENDED" CREDIT. FINANCING FOR ANY RECONSTRUCTION UNDERTAKEN WILL PUT ADDITIONAL PRESSURES ON INFLATION RATES. END SUMMARY.
2. A. PHYSICAL CAPABILITY

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CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN MEXICO IS DIVIDED BETWEEN TWO MAJOR GROUPS, THE ORGANIZED CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AND THE INFORMAL INDUSTRY. ALTHOUGH THE LATTER ACCOUNTS FOR NEARLY 60 PERCENT OF TOTAL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY, IT IS THE ORGANIZED INDUSTRY THAT UNDERTAKES NEARLY ALL OF THE HEAVY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. IT IS THIS ORGANIZED INDUSTRY THAT MUST UNDERTAKE ANY SERIOUS REBUILDING IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE EARTHQUAKE.

IS THE MEXICAN ORGANIZED CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY CAPABLE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

OF UNDERTAKING A MASSIVE REBUILDING THE ANSWER WOULD SEEM TO BE YES, IT IS CAPABLE. THE EXPERTISE EXISTS. KEY MEXICAN CONSTRUCTION FIRMS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPETED ON MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. PRIOR TO THE EARTHQUAKE THE INDUSTRY WAS OPERATING AT LESS THAN 50 PERCENT OF CAPACITY. NEARLY 1/2 MILLION CONSTRUCTION WORKERS HAVE BEEN LAID OFF SINCE THE BOOM PERIOD ENDING IN 1982. LARGE QUANTITIES OF HEAVY MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN IDLE-- MUCH OF IT SUBJECT TO REPOSSESSION BECAUSE SO MANY CONSTRUCTION FIRMS HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO MEET PAYMENTS. IN TERMS OF NEEDED BUILDING MATERIALS, NEARLY 95 PERCENT ARE OF NATIONAL ORIGIN.

CEMENT IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT BUILDING MATERIAL, AND THE MEXICAN CEMENT INDUSTRY IN 1984 WAS RANKED NUMBER TWELVE IN THE WORLD. IT IS EXPECTED THAT 1985 PRODUCTION WILL REACH OVER 20 MILLION TONS, AN ALL TIME RECORD. THE MAJOR REASON FOR THIS INCREASE--OBVIOUS IN VIEW OF THE STAGNANT LEVEL OF DOMESTIC CONSTRUCTION-- HAS BEEN EXPANDING EXPORTS (VIRTUALLY ALL TO THE U.S.). EXPORTS IN 1984 WERE 8.8 PERCENT OF TOTAL PRODUCTION, AND THE PERCENTAGE FOR 1985 WAS EXPECTED TO BE HIGHER.

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PAGE 03 MEXICO 19432 230017Z

THERE IS LITTLE QUESTION THAT THE UTILIZATION OF SOME CURRENT EXCESS CAPACITY, DIVERSION FROM OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTRY, AND A HALT TO EXPORTS WOULD SUFFICE TO PROVIDE ALL OR MOST OF THE CEMENT REQUIRED FOR MAJOR RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS.

3. B. FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

THE FINANCIAL CAPABILITY SIDE OF THE COIN IS MUCH LESS POSITIVE THAN THE PHYSICAL SIDE. ONE OF THE KEY COMPLAINTS OF THE ORGANIZED INDUSTRY HAS BEEN LACK OF PAYMENTS BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. GIVEN THIS MISTRUST, AND THE FACT THAT MANY CONSTRUCTION FIRMS HAVE NO RESERVE FINANCIAL CUSHIONS OF THEIR OWN TO DRAW ON, RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS ARE LIKELY TO REQUIRE FULL GOVERNMENT FINANCING, POSSIBLY WITH SOME NEW GUARANTY MEASURES. BECAUSE VIRTUALLY ALL CONSN INDUSTRY NEEDS CAN BE MET THROUGH DOMESTIC SUPPLIERS, FEW ADDITIONAL IMPORTS SHOULD BE REQUIRED. THE EXCEPTION MIGHT BE FOR SOME ADDITIONAL HEAVY MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT.

ONE KEY UNANSWERABLE QUESTION AT THIS TIME IS HOW MUCH RECONSTRUCTION THE GOM WILL UNDERTAKE. CREDIT AVAILABILITY WAS ALREADY VERY LOW BEFORE THE EARTHQUAKES. TO EMBARK UPON A MAJOR REBUILDING PROGRAM WOULD REQUIRE

LARGE DEFICIT FINANCING WHICH WOULD PUT SEVERE PRESSURE ON INFLATION RATES. EVEN SO, EARLY REPORTS INDICATE THE GOM HAS PROMISED "OPEN ENDED" LINES OF CREDIT TO HOTELS DAMAGED BY THE QUAKES. BECAUSE AN ALREADY SEVERE HOUSING SHORTAGE HAS BEEN EXACERBATED BY THE EARTHQUAKES, NEW PUBLIC HOUSING ALSO WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE A MAJOR PART OF ANY RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM ADOPTED.

ANOTHER KEY QUESTION REVOLVES AROUND WHAT CONSTRUCTION
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PAGE 04 MEXICO 19432 230017Z

FIRMS WILL BE UTILIZED BY THE GOM IN ANY REBUILDING EFFORTS. THE ORGANIZED INDUSTRY HAS CLAIMED THAT IN THE PAST FEW YEARS THE GOM HAS BEEN AWARGING AN INCREASING NUMBER OF CONTRACTS TO CONSTRUCTION FIRMS OWNED BY GOVERNMENT ENTITIES, INCLUDING STATE GOVERNMENT ENTITIES. THE (PRIVATE SECTOR) ORGANIZED INDUSTRY HAS QUESTIONED THE LEVEL OF EXPERTISE OF THESE FIRMS AND THEIR OVERALL CAPABILTiy AND EFFICIENCY.

KDRAFTED:PEPENNINGER) GAVIN

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19435 221941Z
ACTION ISO-02

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 COMP-01 MMO-01 ARA-00 SSO-00
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-----123633 221947Z /72

O 221534Z SEP 85
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO USOFFICE RAMC BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
USOFFICE RAMC TEXT PARIS IMMEDIATE
INFO USOFFICE RAMC MEXICO
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3989

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UNCLAS MEXICO 19435

FOR RAMC DIRECTORS
DEPARTMENT FOR A/ISO FROM RAMC

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AFIN, AADP
SUBJECT: RAMC SITUATION IN MEXICO CITY

THE EMBASSY AND RAMC IN MEXICO CITY SUFFERED NO DAMAGE IN THE EARTHQUAKE OF SEPTEMBER 19. THERE IS NO REPEAT NO POWER OUTAGE; HOWEVER, WE ARE WITHOUT COMMUNICATIONS OUTSIDE OF MEXICO CITY. WE HAVE ASKED OUR POSTS, BOGOTA AND GUATEMALA TO FORWARD DATA BY WANG DISKETTE VIA DHL COURIER SERVICE. OUR ONLY PROBLEM AT THE PRESENT TIME IS THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PAYROLL SYSTEM MAINTAINED IN WASHINGTON. WE HOPE THAT THIS PROBLEM WILL BE SHORT LIVED.

WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY PROBLEMS WITH YEAR END CLOSING. WE ARE OPEN FOR DISBURSEMENTS THROUGH SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28 AND FOR OBLIGATIONS AND OBLIGATION ADJUSTMENTS THROUGH FRIDAY OCTOBER 4. WE ARE HOPING THAT THE OUTSIDE COMMUNICATION LINES WILL BE RESTORED SHORTLY.
GAVIN
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19435 221941Z

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19439 230026Z
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RELEASED IN FULL

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE INFO SVC GOLDEN CO IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3993

UNCLAS MEXICO 19439

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: SENV, MX

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE DATA

REF: GOLDEN 5757

1. UNAM INFORMS SEISMIC ACTIVITY DUE TO EARTHQUAKE OF
SEPT. 19 HAS RESULTED IN 28 AFTERSHOCKS, STRONGEST ONE
BEING FELT SEPT. 20 AT 1938 P.M. WHICH REGISTERED 6.8 ON
RICHTER SCALE WITH COORDINATES OF 17.4 N - 102 W.
MAGNITUDE OF OTHER AFTERSHOCKS HAVE RANGED FROM 3.5 TO
5.5 ON RICHTER SCALE.(DRAFTER: SSOTO) GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19442 230021Z
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3996

UNCLAS MEXICO 19442

E. O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: CASC, SOCI, EAID, MX
SUBJECT: MEXICAN EARTHQUAKE: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE
LOCATING MOTHER THERESA COMMUNITY

CONTACTED A SISTER 9/22/85, WHO SAID EVERYONE IN
COMMUNITY OK, NOT AFFECTED BY EARTHQUAKE. THEY SEND
THEIR LOVE.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

GAVIN

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19370 230013Z
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INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 SSO-00 CCO-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3881

UNCLAS MEXICO 19370

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MX
SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE W/W
ATTN: ED NUDECO

DIBELISSE CORDERO ECUADORAN CULTURAL ATTACHE IN MEXICO
CITY AND STAFF ARE SAFE AND WELL.

GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19378 222344Z
ACTION ARA-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3896
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

UNCLAS MEXICO 19378

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE: ROMANIAN REQUEST FOR INFORMA-
- TION ON STATUS OF ROMANIAN EMBASSY AND PERSONNEL

-

REF: STATE 290954

-

EMBOFF CONTACTED ROMANIAN EMBASSY AT 0220 LOCAL TIME
9/21/85. DUTY OFFICER THERE SAID ALL PERSONNEL WERE
WELL AND REPORTED NO PROBLEMS WITH EMBASSY. (DRAFTED:
SCI:JDETHOMAS) GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19380 222130Z
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CNO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
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USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS MEXICO 19380

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE - AMBASSADOR'S PRESS

- CONFERENCE

-
1. FOLLOWING EXCERPT IS FROM AMBASSADOR GAVIN,S
REMARKS ON TRAVEL TO MEXICO BY U.S. CITIZENS ON
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 IN LIGHT OF THE LATEST
EARTHQUAKE SITUATION INFORMATION:

-
2. BEGIN QUOTE: "BEFORE TURNING TO YOUR QUESTIONS,
I WOULD LIKE TO TOUCH UPON A DELICATE SUBJECT. THOSE
OF YOU WHO ARE CORRESPONDENTS HERE IN MEXICO WILL
UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT. DUE TO THE
MAGNITUDE OF THE TRAGEDY, WHICH HAS STRETCHED
COMMUNICATIONS AND LODGING FACILITIES IN MEXICO CITY
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19380 222130Z

TO THE LIMIT, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, WE WOULD SUGGEST
THAT UNITED STATES TOURISTS COMING TO MEXICO BE VERY
CERTAIN THAT THEY HAVE ACCOMMODATIONS. NOW I WILL
GIVE YOU SOME INFORMATION THAT I HAVE GOTTEN FROM THE
SECRETARY OF TOURISM. I HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT THIS
MORNING WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, LICENCIADO GRIMM.
WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY THE APPROPRIATE MEXICAN
AUTHORITIES THAT THEY'RE WORKING AS QUICKLY AS
POSSIBLE TO RESTORE ALL FACILITIES AND I DON'T THINK
THAT THERE IS ANY NEED TO BE ALARMED ABOUT THE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

SITUATION AT THIS TIME." END QUOTE

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3916

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UNCLAS MEXICO 19385

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL SENV, AMGT, MX
SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE - WELFARE OF GREEK EMBASSY

REF: STATE 291296

1. GREEK EMBASSY MEXICO REPORTS THAT ALL PERSONNEL
AS WELL AS PHYSICAL CONDITION OF CHANCERY/RESIDENCE
ARE FINE. (POL:FWOODWARD) GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19386 222129Z
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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DISTDIR HOUSTON IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3917

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UNCLAS MEXICO 19386

USDOC FOR 3130/FCS/OPNS/HSHERWOOD
4321/IEP/WH/OCA/MEX/TWELCH

E.O. 12356:N/A

TAGS: ABLD, ABUD, BEXP, MX

SUBJECT: CONDITION OF U.S. TRADE CENTER FOLLOWING
MEXICO CITY EARTHQUAKE

1. SUMMARY. THE U.S. TRADE CENTER IN MEXICO IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED AND NEXT WEEK'S PROCESS CONTROL SHOW HAS BEEN POSTPONED AND POSSIBLY CANCELLED. WE WILL GO AHEAD WITH THE SHOW (SPIN OFF) OCTOBER 1-3 IN MONTERREY. THE USTC BUILDING DID NOT SUFFER DAMAGE. ALL STAFF, BOTH AMERICANS AND FSN'S ARE SAFE. SOME HAD PHYSICAL DAMAGE TO THEIR HOMES. SEVERAL BUILDINGS WITHIN HALF A BLOCK OF THE USTC WERE DEMOLISHED BY THE EARTHQUAKE AND WE HAVE ESTIMATES OF AT LEAST TEN TO TWENTY PEOPLE STILL TRAPPED AND POSSIBLY DEAD IN THESE BUILDINGS. ONE SIXTEEN STORY BUILDING NEXT TO THE TRADE CENTER IS LISTING AT A 19 DEGREE ANGLE, AND COULD ALSO COLLAPSE OR MAY HAVE TO BE TORN DOWN. WE HAVE EVACUATED THE BUILDING TO AVOID LOSS OF LIFE. ALL UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19386 222129Z

OUR FILES AND EQUIPMENT ARE AT THE USTC. LIMITED OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE COMMERCIAL SECTION AT THE EMBASSY. END SUMMARY.

2. PHYSICAL DAMAGE. WE HAVE INSPECTED THE USTC BUILDING AND CANNOT FIND ANY STRUCTURAL DAMAGE, ALTHOUGH SOME BOOKCASES HAVE FALLEN AND BROKEN GLASS IS SCATTERED AROUND, ALL DAMAGE APPEARS TO BE INSIGNIFICANT. OUR NEIGHBORS DID NOT DO SO AS WELL. A SIX STORY BUILDING AT THE CORNER WHICH HOUSED THE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

MEXICAN EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION (COPARMEX) WAS
DEMOLISHED AND THERE ARE PEOPLE STILL TR

7. POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTIONS:

A. DEMOLITION OF THE SIXTEEN STORY BUILDING ADJACENT
TO THE TRADE CENTER COULD FORCE US TO KEEP THE
FACILITY CLOSED FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME.

STATE/FBO HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO SEND AN ENGINEER TO
ASSESS THIS SITUATION. WORK IS UNDERWAY TO PLAN FOR
ALTERNATE LOCATIONS FOR EXHIBITIONS IF NECESSARY.

B. THE NEXT EVENT IS IN GUADALAJARA IN NOVEMBER.
SINCE PHONE LINES ARE DOWN AND ARE EXPECTED TO BE
OUT OF ORDER FOR AT LEAST ONE MORE WEEK, WE PROPOSE
SENDING AN EMPLOYEE TO THE HOUSTON OR MIAMI DISTRICT
OFFICE TO CONTINUE THE RECRUITMENT EFFORT. (HOUSTON
AND MIAMI PLEASE ADVISE ASAP). THE REPCOM SHOW WILL
BE HELD IN MEXICO CITY IN DECEMBER IF ALL HAS
RETURNED TO NORMAL. RECRUITMENT MUST CONTINUE,
HOWEVER.

C. ESSENTIAL TRADE CENTER STAFF ARE NOW HOUSED IN
THE COMMERCIAL SECTION AT THE U.S. EMBASSY. THE
COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR HAD MADE PROVISIONS TO
REORGANIZE TO MEET EMERGENCY NEEDS. ALL OTHER
EMPLOYEES OF THE TRADE CENTER ARE ON ADMINISTRATIVE
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PAGE 03 MEXICO 19386 222129Z

LEAVE. CONTRACT GUARDS WHO ARE PART OF THE LOCAL
POLICE ARE STILL POSTED AT THE BUILDING TO PROTECT
THE FACILITY. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED.

5. ACTION REQUESTED FROM USDOC:

A. ASSISTANCE IN CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT OF
MEXICO CITY PROCESS CONTROL EVENT.

B. B&F ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING REFUNDS IF NEEDED.

DRAFTED BY: RFERMOSELLE, EDOD

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19390 222255Z
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3919

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS MEXICO 19390

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE - EGYPTIAN EMBASSY

-
1. FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM EGYPTIAN EMBASSY,
MEXICO CITY WITH REQUEST THAT IT BE FORWARDED TO
EGYPTIAN EMBASSY, WASHDC, FOR CAIRO.

-
2. TO MR. MOHAMMED SHOUKRY: ALL EGYPTIANS AND OURSELVES
ARE SAFE. INTERNATIONAL PHONE COMMUNICATIONS ARE STILL
OUT OF ORDER. REGARDS. AZIZ SEIF-EL-NASR - TELEX
091-20-233.

-
3. FROM BOUSTANE MEXICO. TO KHARGIA CAIRO. COUNSELOR TALAT
IS SAFE. LEFT MEXICO TO PANAMA TODAY. (SIGNED) AMBASSADOR

-
4. TO MEXICAN AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO. HIS EXCELLENCY
AMBASSADOR PALACIO. ALL FAMILY IN MEXICO SAFE. PERSONALLY
CONTACTED BY EGYPTIAN EMBASSY. REGARDS. AMBASSADOR
AZIZ SEIF EL NASR - TELEX 091-92-277

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19390 222255Z

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19391 211952Z
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3920
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CSAF WASH DC NIACT IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

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UNCLAS MEXICO 19391

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CSS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE - REQUEST FOR RADIO AND
- COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

1. US EMBASSY MEXICO REQUESTS FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS
ASSETS BE DEPLOYED ASAP TO MEXICO CITY.

-
- A. 2 HF RADIOS WITH APPROPRIATE ANTENNA
- (MINIBEAM) AND 2 RADIO OPERATORS. THIS
- WILL BE SET UP AT LIC. BENITO JUAREZ
- INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO COORDINATE AIR
- OPERATIONS COMING IN FROM CONUS.
- ANTICIPATE 24 HOURS OPERATION UNDER USDAO
- DIRECTION.
-
- B. ONE 4 CHANNEL BASE STATION AND SEVERAL

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19391 211952Z

- REPEATERS WITH ONE HUNDRED HAND HELD RADIOS.
- THIS WILL BE USED FOR TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS
- TO COORDINATE OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE
- CITY. THE REPEATER(S) WILL BE REQUIRED
- BECAUSE OF LARGE DISTANCES/OBSTRUCTIONS
- WITHIN MEXICO CITY DISASTER OPNS AREA.
- BASE STATION WILL BE LOCATED IN US EMBASSY.
- PLEASE ADVISE WHEN WE MAY EXPECT ARRIVAL
- OF THIS EQUIPMENT.
-

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

- C. ONE TRANSPORTABLE FULL COMMUNICATION
 - CENTER FOR ACP 127 DATA COMMUNICATION.
 - THIS WILL BE FOR USEMBASSY COMMUNICATION USE. POST WILL PROVIDE 110V 60H2 POWER.
 -
2. PLEASE PROVIDE ESTIMATED ARRIVAL TIMES ASAP.
(SOWDEN) GAVIN

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3929

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UNCLAS MEXICO 19397

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE: REQUEST FROM FINNISH
AMBASSADOR

1. FINNISH AMBASSADOR PHONED TO REQUEST WE PASS THE
FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE FINNISH EMBASSY, WASHINGTON D.C.

2. BEGIN TEXT. ALL OFFICIAL AND RESIDENT FINNS FINE.
DON'T KNOW YET ABOUT POSSIBLE TOURISTS. WE HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO COMMUNICATE THROUGH FINNISH EMBASSY IN HAVANA.
TOMORROW WE WILL SEND MISS HEINO TO HOUSTON TO
REPORT. REGARDS. FINNISH AMBASSADOR. GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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INRE-00 OCS-06 FDRE-01 SAF-01 CA-02 FBO-05 OES-09
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3935

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CMC WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

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NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE INFORMATION CENTER GOLDEN COLO

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DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX

SUBJECT: SITREP 31- MEXICO EARTHQUAKE

1. THE MEXICAN MEDIA THIS SATURDAY CONTINUES TO
GIVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO THE AFTERMATH OF THE
EARTHQUAKE THAT STRUCK MEXICO CITY ON THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 19.

2. AT 1938 HOURS FRIDAY NIGHT, THERE WAS A STRONG
AFTERSHOCK WITH AN INTENSITY OF 6.8 ON THE RICHTER
SCALE THAT CAUSED SEVERAL DAMAGED BUILDINGS TO
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COLLAPSE. MANY RESIDENTS OF MEXICO CITY FLED THEIR
HOMES AND SLEPT IN THE VARIOUS SHELTERS THAT HAVE
BEEN SET UP IN THE CITY, A LARGE NUMBER OF MEXICO
CITY RESIDENTS SLEPT ON THE STREET. RESCUE
OPERATIONS WERE SUSPENDED FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME
AND RESUMED THROUGH THE NIGHT. LIGHT WAS OUT IN MOST
OF THE CITY, BUT EVENTUALLY POWER WAS RESTORED.
HOWEVER, LOCAL TELEPHONE LINES WERE FURTHER DAMAGED.

3. THE MEXICAN MEDIA REPORT THAT THE CASUALTY FIGURE BY MEXICO CITY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

AUTHORITIES AS OF FRIDAY NIGHT ARE:

1,300 DEAD, 5,313 INJURED AND AROUND 1,000 PERSONS STILL TRAPPED IN THE RUBBLE. IT IS ALSO REPORTED THAT 600 PERSONS HAVE BEEN RESCUED ALIVE FROM THE RUBBLE.

-

4. AT SAME TIME MEXICAN NAVY TOLD EMBOFF THAT 5,000 DEAD HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM ONE THREE MILE AREA. WE EXPECT DEATH TOLL TO BE MUCH MORE THAN ANNOUNCED TO DATE. GOM FIGURES RELEASED TO MEDIA ARE UNDERSTANDABLY CONSERVATIVE AND DELAYED. IT WILL BE SEVERAL DAYS AT LEAST BEFORE WE HAVE PRECISE ESTIMATE.

-

5. THE MAJORITY OF THE MEXICAN MEDIA REPORT ON AMBASSADOR GAVIN'S STATEMENT THAT MEXICO HAS REQUESTED DEMOLITION EXPERTS FROM THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT STANDS READY TO ASSIST MEXICO AS SOON AS IT HEARS FROM THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT ITS NEEDS. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO SAID THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN SENT A LETTER TO THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT EXPRESSING THE CONCERN AND SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND THE WILLINGNESS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST MEXICO IN ANY POSSIBLE WAY.

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6. THE MEDIA ALSO QUOTES HEALTH SECRETARY, GUILLERMO SOBERON, SAYING THAT THERE IS NO DANGER OF EPIDEMIC, BUT ADVISING THAT BASIC HEALTH PRECAUTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN BY MEXICO CITY'S POPULATION--SUCH AS ONLY DRINKING BOILED WATER.

-

7. TELEVISA BROADCASTED THIS MORNING AN INTERVIEW WITH THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, GOVERNMENT WHO CAME DOWN TO MEXICO TO ASSESS THE SITUATION AND FIND OUT WHAT MEXICO NEEDS. A MAJOR APPEAL WAS MADE TO SPREAD INFORMATION IN THE U.S. ABOUT THE TRUE SITUATION IN MEXICO. THEY MADE IT A POINT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE NEWS REPORTS THAT ARE CIRCULATING IN THE UNITED STATES INDICATE FAR GREATER DAMAGE THAN WHAT HAS REALLY HAPPENED.

8. THE SAME NEWSCAST BROADCASTED A LIVE AERIAL VIEW OF THE CITY, WHICH SHOWED THAT EVEN AFTER FRIDAY'S AFTERSHOCK THE DAMAGED AREA IS STILL LIMITED TO THE CENTRAL PART OF THE CITY. MEXICAN VOLUNTEERS

-

9. AMCIT WITH PROFESSIONAL DEGREE AND DECADE OF LIVING IN MEXICO TOLD EMBOFF FRIDAY OF EFFORTS TO VOLUNTEER SERVICES TO RED CROSS AND MEXICAN OFFICIALS. INDIVIDUAL REPORTED THAT VOLUNTEER PROCESS IS VERY CHAOTIC. THERE

SEEMS TO BE LITTLE ORGANIZATION OR LEADERSHIP. EVERYONE WANTS TO BE IN CHARGE; NO ONE SEEMS TO WANT TO BE A FOLLOWER. MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE BEING USED TO DIRECT TRAFFIC, ESPECIALLY IN THE MOST DAMAGED AREAS. MANY YOUTHS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED IN PRIVATE VEHICLES WITH PAPER SIGNS STUCK TO THE DOORS AND RED FLAGS TIED TO ANTENNAS DASHING IN AND OUT OF TRAFFIC WITH GREAT PURPOSE BUT LITTLE DIRECTION. STORIES AND OBSERVATION OF VOLUNTEER HELP SITUATION SUGGESTS THAT WHILE MANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19403 02 OF 02 222344Z
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NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE INFORMATION CENTER GOLDEN COLO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 MEXICO 19403

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: SITREP 31- MEXICO EARTHQUAKE

HANDS ARE AVAILABLE, LITTLE IS BEING DONE TO USE THEM
EFFECTIVELY AT LEAST FOR ROUTINE FUNCTIONS.
GAVIN

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19406 222345Z
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3938
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DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX

SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM MEXICAN AMBASSADOR IN ROME

REF: A. STATE 291291, B. ROME 23236

MESSAGE RELAYED REFTEL HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO MEXICAN
SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS. WE WILL ADVISE BY
SEPTTEL TO EMBASSY ROME WITH INFO COPY TO DEPARTMENT
WHEN RESPONSE IS RECEIVED. (DRAFTED:POL:DLINSKEY)
GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 19407 222347Z
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3939

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UNCLAS MEXICO 19407

FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

PLEASE PASS ARGENTINE EMBASSY

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, AID, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE - STATUS OF ARGENTINE
- EMBASSY MEXICO

REF: STATE 290342

ARGENTINE EMBASSY MEXICO REPORTS THAT ALL PERSONNEL AS
WELL AS PHYSICAL CONDITION OF CHANCERY AND RESIDENCE
ARE FINE. (POL:FWOODWARD) GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS MEXICO 19408

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FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, AID, MX
SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE - STATUS OF PORTUGUESE
- EMBASSY IN MEXICO

REF: LISBON 10071

PER REFTEL PLEASE PASS MFA. PORTUGUESE EMBASSY MEXICO
REPORTS THAT ALL PERSONNEL AS WELL AS PHYSICAL CONDITION
OF CHANCERY AND RESIDENCE ARE FINE. (POL:FWOODWARD)
GAVIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE INFORMATION CENTER GOLDEN COLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 MEXICO 19412

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX

SUBJECT: FIRST LOOK AT THE ECONOMIC SIDE OF THE MEXICAN
- EARTHQUAKES

1. (U) SUMMARY. MEXICO'S RECENT EARTHQUAKES WILL HAVE
A LARGE ECONOMIC COST BUT THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC
INFRASTRUCTURE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY LITTLE
AFFECTED. THERE WAS NO PERCEPTIBLE DAMAGE TO THE
INDUSTRIAL PLANT, THE PETROLEUM SECTOR, ELECTRICAL
GENERATING CAPACITY, THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, OR THE
BANKING SYSTEM. THERE WAS DAMAGE TO SOME HOTELS, BUT THE
MORE SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE TOURISM SECTOR WILL BE
PSYCHOLOGICAL. DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE AND
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 19412 01 OF 03 230000Z

TELEX SERVICE TO AND FROM MEXICO CITY IS SEVERELY
DISRUPTED AND THERE ARE PROBLEMS WITH ELECTRICITY AND
WATER DISTRIBUTION WITHIN MEXICO CITY. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE WILL
HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE MEXICAN ECONOMY. AT
THIS EARLY STAGE, HOWEVER, IT IS DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF
THE EARTHQUAKE. THE
FOLLOWING, HOWEVER, ARE A FEW DESCRIPTIONS OF THE
ECONOMIC DIMENSION ON THE EARTHQUAKE.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

-

3. (U) INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

-

THE AREA HARDEST HIT BY THE EARTHQUAKE WAS VIRTUALLY DEVOID OF INDUSTRY. EMBASSY HAS NOT LEARNED OF ANY LARGE MANUFACTURING OPERATION IN MEXICO CITY WHOSE FACILITIES SUFFERED MAJOR EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE. PRODUCTION, REFINING AND EXPORT OF PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY APPEAR TO BE TOTALLY UNAFFECTED. THE SICARTSA STEEL COMPLEX ON MEXICO'S PACIFIC COAST NEAR THE TOWN OF LAZARO CARDENAS SUFFERED ONLY SLIGHT DAMAGE, BUT THE SURROUNDING TOWN IS REPORTEDLY HEAVILY DAMAGED. THE FERTILIZANTES MEXICANOS (FERTIMEX) FERTILIZER PLANT IN LAZARO CARDENAS WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED. ELECTRIC POWER-GENERATING CAPACITY IS VIRTUALLY UNAFFECTED.

4. (U) SERVICES SECTOR

-

APARTMENT BUILDINGS, HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, BANKS, RETAIL OUTLETS, GOVERNMENT OFFICES, AND OTHER OFFICE BUILDINGS ACCOUNTED FOR MOST OF THE BUILDINGS SUFFERING SEVERE DAMAGE OR COMPLETE COLLAPSE.

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- COMMUNICATIONS (AS OF SEPTEMBER 21)

-

-- LOCAL TELEPHONE SERVICE WAS REPORTED TO BE
-- APPROACHING NORMALCY AT APPROXIMATELY 97 PERCENT OF
-- MEXICO CITY LOCATIONS.

-- INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS WERE LIMITED TO A FEW
-- TELEX LINES.

-- COMMUNICATION FROM MEXICO CITY TO OTHER PARTS OF
-- THE COUNTRY WAS AVAILABLE ONLY THROUGH A FEW LINES.

-- THERE WAS NO DAMAGE TO ANY OF THE SATELLITE
-- COMMUNICATIONS STATIONS.

-

- TRANSPORTATION

-

MAJOR RAIL, HIGHWAY AND WATER-BORNE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS SEEM TO HAVE ESCAPED THE EARTHQUAKE LARGELY UNDAAMAGED. SOME HIGHWAYS AND RAIL LINES ARE BLOCKED IN CERTAIN LOCATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AREAS AS THE RESULT OF EARTHQUAKE TRILANDSLIDES. AIR TRANSPORTATION IS VIRTUALLY UNAFFECTED.

-

- UTILITIES

-- ELECTRICITY

AS NOTED PREVIOUSLY, THERE WAS NO DAMAGE TO ELECTRIC GENERATING CAPACITY. ELECTRICITY SERVICE WAS REPORTED TO BE AVAILABLE TO 75 PERCENT OF CITY RESIDENTS. THE MEXICO CITY MAYOR ESTIMATED THE ENTIRE CITY WOULD HAVE VIRTUALLY FULL ELECTRICITY SERVICE WITHIN 72 HOURS. PROBLEMS ARE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 MEXICO 19412

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: FIRST LOOK AT THE ECONOMIC SIDE OF THE MEXICAN

LARGELY DUE TO DAMAGE TO HIGH-TENSION WIRES AND TO 272
RELAY FACILITIES.

-- WATER

-
WATER IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN SHORT SUPPLY IN LARGE
PARTS OF THE CITY DUE TO BREAKS IN MAJOR SUPPLY LINES.

-

-- GAS

-

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GAS IS GENERALLY AVAILABLE.

-

-- FUEL

-

GASOLINE SUPPLIES WERE CONSIDERED AMPLE BUT LOCAL PRESS REPORTS MENTIONED INCREASED USAGE. EMBASSY HAS SEEN LITTLE EVIDENCE OF THIS. DELIVERIES ARE CONTINUING AT A NORMAL OR NEAR-NORMAL PACE.

-

- TOURISM.

-

A NUMBER OF HOTELS, ESPECIALLY IN MEXICO CITY, HAVE BEEN DESTROYED OR DAMAGED. THE GOM TOURISM SECRETARIAT HAS ALREADY OFFERED THE OWNERS LOANS TO REBUILD (DESPITE CURRENT LOW HOTEL OCCUPANCY RATES IN MEXICO). ACAPULCO AND PUERTO VALLARTA ESCAPED WITH LITTLE DAMAGE BUT HOTELS IN IXTAPA/ZIHUATANEJO WERE DAMAGED. LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF THE EARTHQUAKE WILL BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN DAMAGE TO THE TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE: MANY TOURISTS MAY BE AT LEAST TEMPORARILY SCARED AWAY FROM MEXICO. TOURISM IS MEXICO'S THIRD LARGEST SOURCE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

-

- BANKING AND OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES

-

BANKS WERE OPEN THE DAY AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE. OF 902 BANK BRANCHES WITHIN MEXICO CITY, 831 WERE REPORTED TO BE GOING TO BE OPEN MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23. NON-ROUTINE BANKING SERVICES ARE SEVERELY LIMITED BY THE LACK OF COMMUNICATION FACILITIES. THE MEXICAN STOCK EXCHANGE BUILDING WAS SLIGHTLY DAMAGED. THE EXCHANGE WAS CLOSED SEPTEMBER 19 AND 20, BUT IS EXPECTED TO BE OPEN MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23.

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- OFFICE SPACE

-

OFFICE SPACE WAS IN GREAT SURPLUS AS A RESULT OF A BUILDING BOOM UP TO THE 1982 CRISIS. THE EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO OFFICE BUILDINGS HAS OBVIOUSLY GREATLY REDUCED THAT SURPLUS OR TURNED IT TO A SHORTAGE. THE SURPLUS EXISTING BEFORE THE EARTHQUAKE WILL, HOWEVER, EXERT CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON DECISIONS TO RESTORE OR WRITE OFF DAMAGED BUILDINGS.

-
5. (U) FOREIGN TRADE

-

FOREIGN TRADE MAY BE DISRUPTED FOR A SHORT WHILE BECAUSE IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME FOR THE GOM TO RE-ESTABLISH ITS ABILITY TO ISSUE THE NECESSARY IMPORT AND EXPORT PERMITS. TRADE FINANCING MIGHT BE VERY DIFFICULT UNTIL TELEX LINES ARE RESTORED. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE GOM WILL BE ABLE TO FOCUS ON OUTSTANDING BILATERAL TRADE ISSUES SUCH AS THE FRAMEWORK NEGOTIATIONS OR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY FOR SOME TIME. WHEN THEY ARE ABLE TO RETURN TO THESE ISSUES, THEY MAY USE THE EARTHQUAKE AS JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUESTING GREATER CONCESSIONS FROM THE U.S. SIDE.

-
6. (U) EXCHANGE RATE

-

THE PESO/DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE REMAINS ABOUT THE SAME AS BEFORE THE EARTHQUAKE. PRIVATE EXCHANGES QUOTE A RATE OF 382/389 PESOS PER DOLLAR.

-
7. (C) EMBASSY COMMENT. THE MEXICAN ECONOMY WAS ALREADY EXPERIENCING A PAINFUL RECOVERY FROM A FINANCIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 MEXICO 19412

DEPT FOR MEXICO EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

FOR CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/EMR

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: AEMR, EAID, AMGT, USIA, MX
SUBJECT: FIRST LOOK AT THE ECONOMIC SIDE OF THE MEXICAN

CRISIS. THE GOM WAS EXPECTED TO ASK FOR \$2-3 BILLION IN
NEW COMMERCIAL BORROWING NEXT YEAR. THE SEPTEMBER
EARTHQUAKES CAN ONLY MAKE A BAD SITUATION WORSE. FROM
ONE PERSPECTIVE, HOWEVER, THE ADDITIONAL DAMAGE MAY BE
LESS THAN EXPECTED. THE RECOVERY EFFORT WILL BE
PRIMARILY IN CONSTRUCTION WITH MAJOR EXPENSES FOR
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND LABOR. MEXICO HAS A LARGE
UNEMPLOYED AND UNDEREMPLOYED LABOR SUPPLY AND PRODUCES

MOST BUILDING SUPPLIES. ITS CEMENT INDUSTRY HAS
CONSIDERABLE EXCESS CAPACITY. DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS HAVE
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COME THROUGH THE EARTHQUAKES THUS FAR WITH LITTLE DAMAGE.
THUS THE GREAT BULK OF RECONSTRUCTION CAN TAKE PLACE
WITH DOMESTIC RESOURCES.

8. (C) THE FINANCING IS A KEY ISSUE. UNDER THE MEXICAN
BANKING LAW, GOVERNMENT DEFICITS OVER A CERTAIN AMOUNT
(EXCEEDED IN THE EARLY PART OF THE ANNOT BE
FINANCED THROUGH DIRECT LENDING FROM THE CENTRAL BANK
(ESSENTIALLY BY PRINTING MONEY). THIS BANKING LAW COULD
BE AMENDED BY CONGRESS PRESUMABLY AFTER A PRESIDENTIAL
REQUEST. INTEREST RATES ARE ALREADY HIGH--AROUND 10
PERCENT IN REAL TERMS FOR MEXICAN TREASURY BILLS AND AS
HIGH AS 20 PERCENT IN THE FIRST 2 WEEKS OF AUGUST.
MEXICO'S FINANCING MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO THIS CRISIS
COULD ALTER ITS OVERALL ECONOMIC STRATEGY. DRAFTED BY
J.P.FELT AND S.MULLER. GAVIN

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 290950

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MX
SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE

1. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM FINNISH
EMBASSY WASHINGTON FOR TRANSMITTAL TO FINNISH EMBASSY
MEXICO CITY.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

WOULD APPRECIATE STATUS REPORT OF FINNISH PERSONNEL IN
MEXICO CITY. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? END TEXT.

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. SHULTZ

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 290951

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MX
SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE

1. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM NORWEGIAN
EMBASSY WASHINGTON FOR TRANSMITTAL TO NORWEGIAN EMBASSY
MEXICO CITY.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

WOULD APPRECIATE STATUS REPORT OF NORWEGIAN PERSONNEL
IN MEXICO CITY. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? END TEXT.

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. SHULTZ

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: CASC, SOCI, EAID, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICAN EARTHQUAKE: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE
LOCATING MOTHER THERESA COMMUNITY

1. WHITE HOUSE, ON BEHALF OF MOTHER THERESA OF INDIA,
HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING WELFARE
OF MOTHER THERESA'S COMMUNITY IN MEXICO CITY WITH WHICH
SHE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO COMMUNICATE.

2. COMMUNITY, CASA PAZ ALEGRIA, IS LOCATED AT CALLE
GALEANA NO. 225, COLONIA SANTA FE, MEXICO, DF 01210.
TEL: 905/570-5425.

3. REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE HAS COME FROM MR. FREDERICK
RYAN, DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR PRIVATE
SECTOR INITIATIVES AND FOR APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING.
DEPARTMENT WILL PASS RESPONSE TO MR. RYAN'S ASSISTANT,
EILEEN DOHERTY, AT 456-6676 OR THROUGH THE WHITE HOUSE
SWITCHBOARD (456-1414).

4. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. SHULTZ

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USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MONTERREY IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MAZATLAN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MATAMOROS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL TIJUANA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: CASC, SOCI, EAID, AMGT, MX
SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE WORKING GROUP: SITREP NO. 5
SITUATION IN MEXICO AS OF 1730 EDT SEPTEMBER 20, 1985

1. AS OF 1730 EDT THERE WERE NO CONFIRMED US CITIZEN
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DEATHS. CONSULAR TEAMS FROM EMBASSY MEXICO ARE IN THE
FIELD EXAMINING THE SITUATION. AN EMBASSY TEAM HAS FLOWN
BY HELICOPTER TO INSPECT IXTAPA.

2. AMBASSADOR GAVIN HAS DECLARED THAT A DISASTER EXISTS
IN MEXICO. OFDA HAS AUTHORIZED DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS AT
THE AMBASSADOR'S DISCRETION FOR DISASTER RELIEF. OFDA
HAS SET UP A CENTER TO COORDINATE OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE,
TELEPHONE (202)632-9784.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

3. PRESIDENT DE LA MADRID HAS DESIGNATED DISASTER COORDINATORS. AMBASSADOR GAVIN HAS ADVISED THE GOM ON AVAILABLE US AID. THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED INITIAL INFORMATION AND SPECIALIZED ASSISTANCE NEEDED AND OFDA IS ACTING ON THE REQUESTS.

4. SECRETARY SHULTZ, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ABRAMS AND MEXICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR SHANKLE MET WITH MEXICAN AMBASSADOR ESPINOSA THIS AFTERNOON. SECRETARY SHULTZ OFFERED HIS SYMPATHY, SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT MEXICO TRADITIONALLY COPE WITH ITS EMERGENCIES BUT HE REITERATED OUR OFFER TO ASSIST. ESPINOSA EXPRESSED MEXICO'S INTENT TO ASSESS DAMAGE AND NEEDS PRIOR TO RESPONDING TO ASSISTANCE OFFERS. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE MEETING, AMBASSADOR ESPINOSA SAID "MEXICO IS GRATEFUL FOR US GENEROSITY."

5. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ABRAMS, OFDA DIRECTOR BECTON AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICERS APPEARED BEFORE THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO BRIEF THEM ON THE EARTHQUAKE. THE HOUSE PASSED JOINT RESOLUTION 394 STATING THAT THE USG SHOULD PROVIDE APPROPRIATE RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO AND COOPERATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH MEXICO IN LONG-TERM RECOVERY EFFORTS. YESTERDAY THE SENATE PASSED RESOLUTION 67 STATING THAT THE USG SHOULD PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF MEXICO. SENATOR WILSON TODAY INTRODUCED A BILL TO APPROPRIATE \$25 MILLION DOLLARS IN DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR MEXICO.

6. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. SHULTZ

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDING ADDITIONAL ADDRESSEES)

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: CASC, SOCI, EAID, AMGT, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE WORKING GROUP: SITREP NO. 6
SITUATION IN MEXICO AS OF 0500 EDT SEPTEMBER 21, 1985

1. A SECOND EARTHQUAKE STRUCK THE MEXICO CITY AREA LATE
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FRIDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 20 CAUSING ADDITIONAL DAMAGE
AND CASUALTIES. THE MEXICAN SEISMOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
REPORTED THAT THE SECOND QUAKE MEASURED 6.5 ON THE
RICHTER SCALE; THE FIRST QUAKE MEASURED AT LEAST 7.5.
ALL EMBASSY STAFF ARE ACCOUNTED FOR AND SAFE BUT THE
PRIMARY TELECOMMUNICATIONS CIRCUIT HAS BEEN CUT.

2. THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE, WORKING
WITH FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND PRIVATE
COMPANIES, IS COORDINATING RESPONSES TO MEXICAN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

GOVERNMENT REQUESTS FOR DEMOLITIONS EXPERTS, HELICOPTERS, EARTHMOVING EQUIPMENT AND OTHER SUPPLIES. ONE PLANE IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE PITTSBURGH AT 0800 SEPTEMBER 21 WITH DEMOLITIONS EXPERTS AND WILL STOP IN NASHVILLE TO PICK UP SEARCH DOGS. A SECOND PLANE IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IN THE MORNING WITH FIREFIGHTING HELICOPTERS; BOTH PLANES SHOULD REACH MEXICO CITY BY

MID-AFTERNOON. THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY IS SURVEYING THE AVAILABILITY OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT FOR CLEARING DEBRIS. OTHER MEXICAN GOVERNMENT REQUESTS FOR SPECIALIZED FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT, SMALL GENERATORS, BLANKETS, SHELTERS, MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND OTHER ASSISTANCE ARE BEING STAFFED AND WILL BE RESPONDED TO.

3. ON ABC "NIGHTLINE", ASSISTANT SECRETARY ABRAMS DESCRIBED USG EFFORTS TO ACCOUNT FOR US CITIZENS AND TO RESPOND TO ASSISTANCE REQUESTS AS AND WHEN MEXICAN AUTHORITIES MAKE SUCH REQUESTS. HE ATTEMPTED TO DISCOURAGE SAN ANTONIO MAYOR HENRY CISNEROS FROM LEADING A GROUP OF TEXAS LEADERS TO MEXICO CITY, BECAUSE WE HAD BEEN ADVISED THAT THE GOM PREFERRED NOT TO RECEIVE SUCH VISITS AT THIS TIME. SUBSEQUENTLY, MEXICAN FOREIGN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MINISTER SEPULVEDA, ACCORDING TO THE WIRE SERVICE EFE, TOLD THE PRESS THAT CISNEROS AND BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT SARNEY WERE ARRIVING LATER TODAY TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH PRESIDENT DE LA MADRID.

4. IN A NATIONWIDE ADDRESS FRIDAY NIGHT, PRESIDENT DE LA MADRID SAID THAT MEXICO DID NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO RESPOND TO ONE OF THE WORST DISASTERS IN MEXICAN HISTORY. MEXICAN TELEVISION QUOTED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS ESTIMATING DEATHS OF AT LEAST 1,300 AND AS HIGH AS 4,000. THOUSANDS MORE ARE INJURED AND HOMELESS. WE HAVE NO SEPARATE CONFIRMATION OF TOTAL DEATHS, INJURIES OR DAMAGE; WE HAVE CONFIRMED THE DEATHS OF THREE US CITIZENS, WHOSE NEXT-OF-KIN HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED.

5. THE WORKING GROUP CONTINUES TO HANDLE A HEAVY VOLUME OF PHONE INQUIRIES, MOST ASKING ABOUT THE WELFARE OF INDIVIDUALS. MEWG PERSONNEL HAVE COMMUNICATED WITH NEXT-OF-KIN OF ALMOST ALL AMERICANS (OVER 1500) WHO HAVE CONTACTED THE EMBASSY; INQUIRIES ABOUT MEXICAN OR OTHER NON-US CITIZENS ARE BEING REFERRED TO THE RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES.

6. DIRECT COMMERCIAL PHONE CONTACT WAS ESTABLISHED WITH THE EMBASSY AT MIDNIGHT SEPTEMBER 20, WITH A BACK-UP PHONE LINK VIA THE CONSULATE IN MONTERREY. ALTHOUGH AT&T IS WORKING ON REPAIRS, THERE IS STILL NO REGULAR PHONE

SERVICE TO MEXICO CITY. DEPARTMENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS CIRCUITS HAVE BEEN PARTIALLY RESTORED, AND THE TACSAT IS OPERATIONAL. AIRPORT OPERATIONS WERE HALTED BRIEFLY FOR INSPECTION AFTER THE SECOND QUAKE BUT HAVE BEEN RESUMED. SHULTZ

NOTE BY OC/T: ADDITIONAL INFO OFFICES ADDED.

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: CASC, SOCI, EAID, AMGT, MX
SUBJECT: MEXICO EARTHQUAKE WORKING GROUP: SITREP NO.
7 SITUATION IN MEXICO AS OF EDT SEPTEMBER 21, 1985

1. WE ARE TRYING TO ASSESS THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND
IN MEXICO CITY FOLLOWING THE SECOND QUAKE WHICH
REGISTERED 6.5 ON THE RICHTER SCALE. ACCORDING TO THE US
EMBASSY IN MEXICO, THE SECOND QUAKE COMPOUNDED A BAD
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SITUATION. THE POLICE AND MILITARY STILL HAVE THE
SITUATION UNDER CONTROL BUT IN SOME NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE
CENTER OF THE CITY AND SOUTH, ALONG INSURGENTES SUR, THEY
ARE VERY HARD-PRESSED. IN THE CITY, HOSPITALS HAVE
SUFFERED ADDITIONAL DAMAGE AND ARE TRYING TO EVACUATE
PATIENTS AT THE SAME TIME AS NEW INJURED ARE ARRIVING.
NEW GAS LEAKS AND FIRES CONTINUE TO BE PROBLEMS. THE GOM
SAYS THE DAMAGE FROM THE SECOND QUAKE IS LIGHT, BUT THE
EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE SITUATION IS MORE SERIOUS.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

2. RADIO REPORT THAT PEOPLE ARE ABANDONING THEIR HOMES, ESPECIALLY IN THE MAIN SQUARE (ZOCALO) WHERE THEY ARE CONGREGATING IN THE OPEN. OTHERS HAVE FORCED THEIR WAY ONTO BUSES OR TAKEN THEIR CARS TO GET OUT OF THE DOWNTOWN AREA. THE AREA AROUND THE EMBASSY APPARENTLY AGAIN ESCAPED MAJOR DAMAGE, BUT PRESS REPORTS ON THE RADIO THERE AND LIVE BROADCASTS ON CABLE NEWS NETWORK (CNN) INDICATE THAT THERE IS EXTENSIVE ADDITIONAL DAMAGE, AGAIN MAINLY IN THE HEART OF THE CITY. WE HAVE REPORTS OF MINIMAL OR NO DAMAGE TO THE OUTLYING AREAS.

3. NEWS REPORTERS SAY THAT RESCUE WORKERS, SADLY ENOUGH, ARE HAMPERED IN THEIR EFFORTS BY THE GROWING STENCH FROM BODIES BURIED IN THE RUBBLE. THEY SAY HUNDREDS, IF NOT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE REMAIN TRAPPED UNDER THE RUBBLE. DAMAGED PORTIONS OF BUILDINGS OVERHANG THE STREETS AND PRESENT A DANGER TO THOSE TRYING TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE CITY.

4. INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE LINES AND SOME DOMESTIC LINES ARE STILL OUT FOLLOWING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TELEPHONE CENTRAL AND EARTH SATELLITE STATION IN MEXICO CITY. THE AIRPORT IS OPEN, BUT MANY CARRIERS ARE CANCELLING FLIGHTS
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TO MEXICO. TRANSPORTATION WITHIN THE CITY IS SNARLED IF NOT IMPASSABLE.

5. PRESIDENT DE LA MADRID STATED IN A TELEVISED SPEECH THAT THE TRAGEDY OF THE EARTHQUAKE IS ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS IN MEXICO'S HISTORY. HE ADDED FIRMLY THAT DESPITE THE MAGNITUDE OF THE CATASTROPHE, MEXICO CITY HAS NOT BEEN RAZED. HE ASKED CITIZENS TO BE STRONG AND CALM. FINALLY HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS MEXICO HAS RECEIVED FROM THE WORLD. THE GOM HAS ESTABLISHED A METROPOLITAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION COMMISSION HEADED BY MEXICO CITY MAYOR RAMON AGUIRRE VELASQUEZ. THE TOP PRIORITY IS RESCUE OF VICTIMS FROM COLLAPSED BUILDINGS AND RETRIEVAL OF BODIES FROM WRECKAGE.

6. RESCUE EFFORTS - OFDA HAS FORMED A TASK FORCE. (TELEPHONE-16) THEY ARE PUTTING TOGETHER A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM OF EXPERTS FROM AID AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO ASSIST THE EMBASSY WITH ITS IMMEDIATE NEED TO ASSESS DAMAGE AND COORDINATE USG AND PRIVATE RELIEF RESPONSES. THE TEAM IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN MEXICO LATE SUNDAY OR EARLY MONDAY.

7. IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FROM THE GOM, A DEMOLITION TEAM DEPARTED PITTSBURG THIS MORNING. OFDA HAS ASKED THE FEMA REGIONAL OFFICE IN TEXAS TO IDENTIFY

HEAVY EQUIPMENT APPROPRIATE FOR USE IN RESCUE AND DEMOLITION EFFORTS. THE US FOREST SERVICE IS PROVIDING FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT AND SPRAY HELICOPTERS WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN MEXICO THIS AFTERNOON.

8. THE MEXICAN SECRETARY OF HEALTH EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO AMBASSADOR GAVIN FOR ARRANGING HIS PROMPT RETURN TO MEXICO. HE OUTLINED THE HEALTH SITUATION AS FOLLOWS:

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-- THE MAIN UNMET NEED IS FOR TEMPORARY SHELTER FOR UPWARDS OF 10,000 PEOPLE AS WELL AS CLOTHES AND BLANKETS FOR THEM.

-- MORE THAN ADEQUATE BLOOD AND PLASMA, MEDICINES AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL ARE ON HAND. STORAGE FACILITIES ARE FILLED TO CAPACITY;
SHULTZ

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